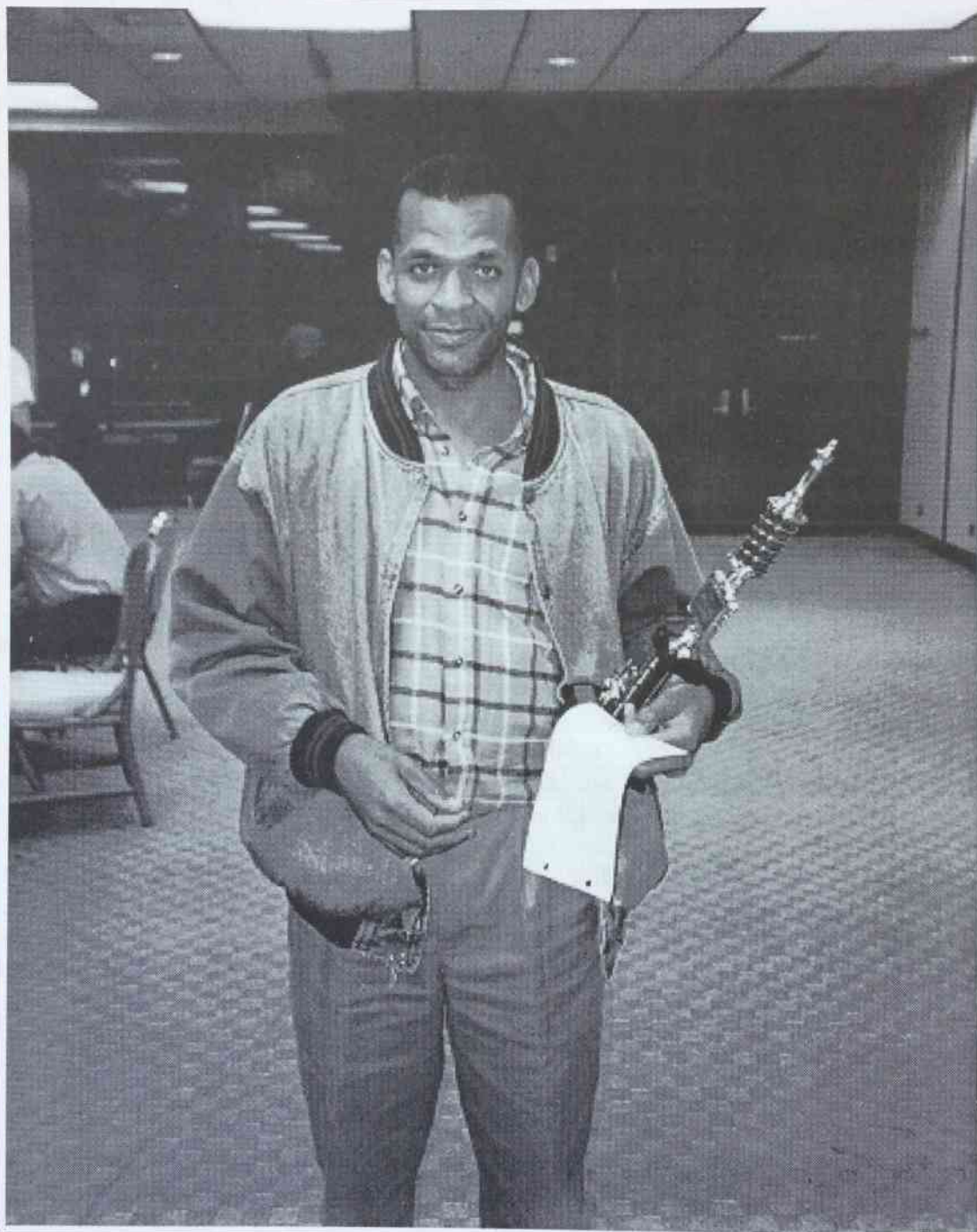

Alabama Chess Antics

August - October 1998

\$3.00



FIDE Master Stephen Muhammad of Columbus, GA wins the Queen of Hearts for the second year in a row - February 15, 1998.

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President's Letter *by Bill Melvin*

The delay between writing a President's Letter and its publication is never felt more deeply than this issue. I am writing this in June. Scholastic chess has ended for the 97-98 year. No adult tournaments are advertised in Chess Life. The only Alabama events listed on the ACF web pages between the Vulcan Open (in late May) and the State Championship (in early September) are smallish tournaments and the State G/29 Championship. These are run by our state's two busiest organizers: Caesar Lawrence and Ken Sloan. We are fortunate to have dedicated organizers like Caesar and Ken. Be sure and thank them next time you play in one of their events.

At the time you are reading this article, things probably look pretty active. Vasha Rosenblum has made excellent progress towards getting organizers to commit many months in advance to hosting Alabama scholastic tournaments on a sort of one-tourney-a-month tour. The calendar is probably out and the slate of tournaments will look like fun. While there is no denying that chess in Alabama (particularly scholastic chess) is healthy, it is curious to witness the cycles we experience each year.

Our year revolves around the State Championship. This tournament kicks off a slate of traditional adult tournaments like the Magic City Open, Queen of Hearts, Space City Open, and the Vulcan Open. These core tournaments have defined the Alabama chess 'scene' for as long as I can remember. Additionally, the State Championship preludes the scholastic schedule that includes the Alabama Junior Team, Grade Championship, Hoover Scholastics, Individual Championship, and Team Championship. For both adult and scholastic chess, the anchoring pillars are in place to provide structure. Such structure is the goal of an immature organization, so we should all be grateful that Alabama chess has long since matured to this level. Alabama is definitely far ahead of many other states in chess organization.

Yet, summertime seems to be the off season for Alabama chess. Perhaps organizers fear that too many players vacation during any given week of the summer to risk holding an event. I've heard from scholastic organizers that it is too difficult to coordinate attendance from school chess clubs over the summer. Then again, I've also heard from parents at the end of the year asking when the next tournament will be.

My own seven year old son asked me about the next scholastic tournament and I had to answer that it would be four long months. Things are a little easier for him as the Huntsville Chess Club is his chess club and they still meet during the summer. Also, I've taken him to a couple adult tournaments where he has gotten thrashed in my worst nightmare. He takes it well, but I can tell he enjoys playing other scholastics more than playing adults. These adult tournaments don't even have trophies --- imagine that!

So, what is the point of this rambling President's Letter? I have two:

1. Scholastic players don't forget how to play chess over the summer. It would be nice to plan a big scholastic event right in the middle July and let the cards fall where they may. Attendance might not be 100% from every school, but I'm sure that many would attend, have fun, and learn.

2. We must not take our organizers for granted. In particular, we must give appreciation to organizers who routinely hold large numbers of tournaments year round. This includes Caesar Lawrence, Ken Sloan, and your local club President. This work is purely a labor of love and can be nearly thankless. Offer to help and give them a break. They deserve one.

Enjoy the 1998-99 scholastic season and the 1998 Alabama State Championship. These are exciting times for Alabama chess!

Milan Momic's Best Game

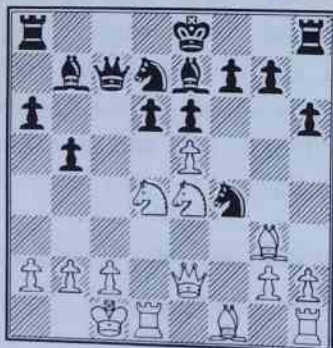
by Bill Melvin

Bobby Edwards recently found an old game of Milan Momic's which Milan considered his best ever. The 'victim' in this game is Walter Browne who has been one of the strongest Grandmasters in the U.S. over the last few decades. These notes are a tribute to Milan who passed away in November of 1997 in Sheffield, Alabama.

Continental Open in Atlanta May 1973

Milan Momic Walter S. Browne Najdorf Sicilian (B98)

- | | |
|-----------|-------|
| 1. e4 | c5 |
| 2. Nf3 | d6 |
| 3. d4 | cx d4 |
| 4. Nxd4 | Nf6 |
| 5. Nc3 | a6 |
| 6. Bg5 | e6 |
| 7. f4 | Be7 |
| 8. Qf3 | h6 |
| 9. Bh4 | Nbd7 |
| 10. O-O-O | Qc7 |
| 11. Bg3 | b5 |
| 12. e5 | Bb7 |
| 13. Qe2 | Nd5 |
| 14. Ne4 | Nxf4 |



Position after 14. ... Nxf4

I cannot offer much in the way of annotations up to this point. I am certain that Browne must have been familiar with this position and this line must have been home preparation. You see, this isn't just the Najdorf Sicilian. This is the BROWNE variation!!! Yup, just turn to page 204 of Najdorf for the Tournament Player by John Nunn and you will see that chapter 18 is titled "Browne System (...h6 by Black)."

Momic has played into a minefield. Whether he knew this or not, I cannot imagine. Perhaps he was setting an ambush for Browne. Perhaps he was clueless. All I know is playing the white side of a Najdorf against Browne would have been like playing a Benko against Benko or a Polugayevsky against Polugayevsky. Browne is THE definitive authority in this opening.

From a theoretical standpoint, I cannot find much information about the position above. The Encyclopedia of Chess Openings (ECO) gives the game continuation up until black's 14th move in the Momic game. Instead of the game continuation, ECO gives 14. ... de5, 15. fe5 O-O, 16. Nf6 with a slight edge for white in Barczay - Kavalek, Sousse Interzonal 1967. It would seem that Browne (and perhaps Momic) were each familiar with this game. Browne's try is definitely an attempt at more.

- | | |
|----------|-------|
| 15. Bxf4 | dx e5 |
| 16. Nxe6 | ... |

This sacrifice appears to be thematic. My computer appears unable to find any of this and the game is blowing its mind (I just saw a little smoke...). For what its worth, it considers white to be up around a pawn now. I wouldn't trust its evaluation function much here, though.

- | | |
|----------|-------|
| 16. ... | fx e6 |
| 17. Qh5+ | Kf8 |
| 18. Ng5 | Bxg5 |
| 19. Bxg5 | Rc8 |
| 20. c3 | Nc5 |
| 21. Be3 | Bd5 |



Position after 21. ... Bd5

The computer prefers 21. ... Be4 here and rates white about 6/10ths of a pawn ahead. I'm not sure what 6/10ths of a pawn is. I suppose it could promote to 6/10ths of a queen or something. I wonder if 6/10ths of a pawn could occupy the same square as 4/10ths of a pawn and become whole again?

(continued on page 7)

How to Beat a Bad Bishop

by Bill Melvin

Everyone seems to know me as an attacking maniac, yet most of my games end up as quiet kills using technique in the endgame. For some reason, there is a strong tendency to only publish flashy sacrificial games. Yet, many masters score most of their points in positions which involve consistent technique. Nowhere is technique more valuable than in the endgame. The following game contains a typical good knight versus bad bishop ending. After the game, my opponent was unsure why he lost the game. Hopefully, the annotations below will help to make it clearer how to play both sides of this common ending.

Music City Spring Open

Nashville, Tennessee

May 16, 1998

Game in 60 minutes

Round 3 Board 1

Bill Melvin Greg Hoffman

(2237) (2081)

Alekhine's Defense (B02)

1. e4 Nf6
2. e5 Nd5
3. c4 Nb6
4. c5 Nd5
5. Bc4 e6

Nobody else seems to play this against the Alekhine. I just love to chase that knight around. The main lines are suspect but considered unclear by the Encyclopedia of Chess Openings (ECO). They do involve a pawn sacrifice for unclear compensation which might

make many players uncomfortable. I'm a big fan of grabbing space and I always get more than I've bargained for in this variation.

6. Nc3 Bc5
7. Bd5 ed5
8. d4 Bb4
9. Qg4 g6?

All of the moves were theory up until the last. While both sides have had many options, most lines end up with an unclear position where black has weak dark squares and development problems for an extra pawn. Batsford Chess Openings 2 actually gives white a slight advantage after 9. ... Kf8, 10. Nf3 d6, 11. Qg3. ECO continues for a few moves from this position and eventually opts for unclear. I don't think this variation is seeing a lot of tests from Grandmasters (or anyone else!) right now.

10. Bg5 Be7
11. Be7 Qe7
12. Nd5 Qd8
13. Nf6 Kf8



If this isn't my dream position with white, then I don't know what is! White keeps the space advantage and gets back his pawn. Black keeps many of his development problems. Unfortunately, black's position holds up better than it looks and Greg quickly gets a nearly even position.

14. Nf3 d5
15. Qf4 h6
16. O-O Be6
17. Rac1 Kg7
18. Rc3 Nd7
19. Nd7 Bd7?!

Both sides have played pretty well thus far. Taking back with the queen on d7 was somewhat better than the bishop recapture.

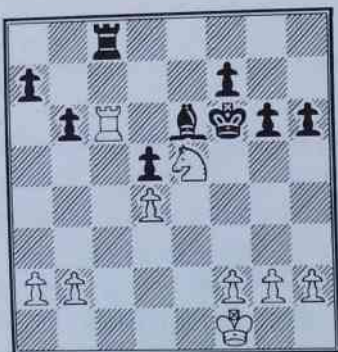
20. e6 Be6
21. Rc7 b6
22. Rfc1 Qf6

This is the moment of truth for white. I decided that the black king was no longer threatened and that my real advantage amounted to the long term prospects of my knight over black's bishop. While only one pawn is fixed on light squares for black (the d5 pawn), it really does define the nature of the position. Nonetheless, white might have better prospects playing 23. Qe3 and keeping the queens on. Perhaps it is a matter of taste.

23. Qf6 Kf6
24. Ne5 Rhc8
25. Kf1 Rc7

26. Rc7 Rc8

27. Rc6 ...



Okay, so I just played for a cheapo. White is threatening 28. Nd7.

27. ... Rc6

28. Nc6 a6

I prefer 28. ... Bd7 here where 29. Na7 is met by 29. ... b5 and white will have to sacrifice a pawn (at least) to rescue the trapped knight. Of course, I wasn't going to capture the a7 pawn, so 28. ... Bd7 really serves to relocate the bishop to a more active square.

29. b4 Bd7

White is trying to fix as many pawns as possible on light squares. Black is trying to find good squares for his bishop. Objectively, the position is now even. White cannot claim to have an advantage here against reasonable play. Yet, I find that I routinely am able to win this ending as so many players are careless about fixing their pawns on the wrong colored squares.

30. Ne5 Bb5

31. Ke1 Ke6

32. Ng4 h5

Of course, with every chance that I get I encourage my opponent to move his pawns onto light squares. The pawns seem naturally drawn to light squares where the bishop can protect them. Yet, they need to stay on dark squares where they can help to cover the half of the board that the bishop can't play on.

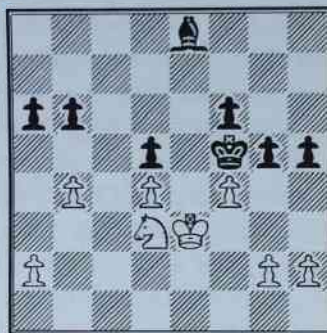
33. Ne5 Be8

34. Kd2 f6

35. Nd3 Kf5

36. Ke3 g5

37. f4 ...



Provocative and almost a blunder! White would answer 37. ... Bb5 with 38. fg Bd3, 39. gf and the win of a pawn. Nonetheless, black should probably go for this and simply play 38. ... fg.

37. ... g4?!

I cannot agree with such moves. My computer played the exact same move without blushing. Yet, it doesn't understand the long term consequences of fixing pawns on light squares either. Now, I will likely have four pawns fixed on light squares (d, f, g, and h). My advantage is starting to look real.

38. g3 Bb5

39. Ne1 Bf1

This is definitely a strong move. Black uses his bishop (finally!) to keep the white knight off of g2 and h4. White has problems dislodging the bishop without allowing the black king to infiltrate in the center.

40. a3 ...

What to do when there is nothing to do? In this case, it is easy to decide to make slight improvements in my position. Now, all the white pawns are on dark squares. This is according to plan and not a coincidence. From here on out, the black bishop will be confined to defense as there is nothing for it to attack!

40. ... Bc4?!

What? Having said 'A', 'B', and 'C', black now proceeds to 'L' and opts for a different plan. While it appears that he must make a concession of some sort, allowing the knight into the game is only asking for trouble.

41. Ng2 Ke6

42. Nh4 Bb5

Here, I'll actually suggest 42. ... f5 as a good attempt. I know that this is contrary to my earlier suggestions about keeping pawns off of light squares, but black is very close to creating a drawn blockaded position.

43. f5 Kf7

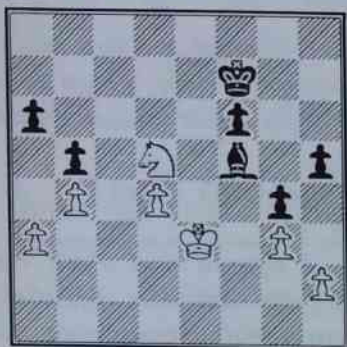
44. Ng2 Bd7

Finally, the computer (which has been agreeing with many of my opponent's bad moves) starts to consider white to be up the equivalent of a pawn. White is now clearly

winning.

45. Nf4 Bf5

46. Nd5 b5



Black's frustration is complete. The only pawn which isn't fixed on white is the worthless f pawn.

47. Nf4 h4

48. d5! ...

You get no points for 48. gh as the win of the 'h' pawn only helps black. While the capture is certainly not bad, it is more thematic to keep everything under control. White shows by advancing the d-pawn that he is effectively a pawn up and gives his king a chance to infiltrate decisively.

48. ... hg

49. hg Ke7

50. Kd4 Be8

51. Kc5 Kd7

52. Nh5 f5

White is almost going too far here! While it is nice to fix ALL of the black pawn's on light squares, the f pawn could become more of a nuisance as it moves up the board. Black can dream of an eventual f5-f4 break giving counterchances. Then again, it is always good to show patience in endings like this.

This was a virtue expoused by Botvinnik among others. In this case, the rest of the game wasn't hard to calculate and white saw that the pawn could be attacked easier while on f5.

53. Nf4 Kc7

54. d6 Kd7

55. Kd5 Bb7

56. Ke5 Be4

57. Ne6 Bf3

58. Nc5 Kc6

59. d7 Kc7

60. Kf5 resigns

1 - 0

The white knight has been most effective against the black bishop. Pawns fixed on the same colored squares as the bishop in a knight versus bishop ending can indeed be weak.

(continued from page 4)

Um, I seem to have strayed. The computer is out of patience and ready to play 22. Be5. Milan is much more patient, though.

22. Be2 Ne4

23. Rhf1+ Kg8

24. Rxd5! exd5

25. Bg4 Nd6?

The computer finds all of these moves up to here. I was surprised when it instantly reeled off 24. Rd5 as that move isn't obvious at all to me. Since the silicon beast found it and the position is tactical, I feel confident that it is correct.

Instead of the game continuation, the computer prefers



Position after 25. ... Nd6?

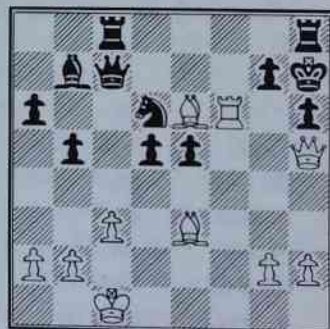
25. ... Rf8. The computer just handed me an olive branch after 26. Be6, Kh7, 27. Bf5 Kg8, 28. Be6 with a draw by repetition.

26. Be6+ Kh7

27. Rf6! resigns

White was threatening Qg6 mate and 27. ... gf6 runs into 28.

Qh6 mate.



Position after 27. ... resigns

What a lovely victory. I'm afraid that neither I nor my computer can give this game its due. However, Milan would be pleased to know that his masterpiece is as unflawed as it is brilliant.

The Next to the Last Mistake

by David Hayes

If you play chess long enough, then you will eventually realize that a winning game is not made up of a series of winning moves. Until we achieve perfection, all our games are more like a series of mistakes, inaccuracies, and outright blunders. This characteristic was recognized long ago. Tartakover once said, "The winner is the player who makes the next-to-the-last mistake." This statement was proven again in the final round of the recent Vulcan Open. At stake was the top class prize of the Reserve Section. The result was a comedy of errors from both players. Lessons to learn.

**Vulcan Open, Birmingham
May 23, 1998 Round 4
Scott Miller David Hayes**

Comments in italics by Bill Melvin.

1. d4	Nf6
2. c4	g6
3. Nc3	Bg7
4. e4	d6
5. Bd3	O-O
6. Nge2	c5?!

I made the first inaccuracy.
6... Nc6 is stronger.

7. d5	a6
8. a4	e6
9. Bg5	h6
10. Bh4	g5?!

This loosening of the Kingside pawns is risky business. I felt

that white was not going to castle long behind a messy pawn structure. So these pawns would be used to storm the white strong hold on the Kingside when he castles there; soon I hoped.

I don't have much to add here. I have noticed that moves like this (h6 and g5 to chase back a bishop after castling) are almost always bad. Then again, part of the fun of playing chess is finding those occasions where the exception is stronger than the rule. Black's idea here is most interesting.

11. Bg3	e5
12. f3	Nbd7

As white, I would have been completely unable to resist 12. h4 here. I realize that after 12. ... g4 I would have a fight on my hands (13. h5!?), but 12. f3 doesn't look like part of a meaningful plan. Also, take one look at the white light squared bishop and you realize that it might have had a better future with the f pawn on f2.

13. Bf2	Nh5
14. h4	Nf4
15. g3	Nxd3+

Black needed to try hard to keep the kingside closed. White is much better after getting in h4. Black should not capture the light squared 'pawn' on d3. This piece is horrible. I strongly prefer retreating the knight to g6 to this capture. Black's king is not in im-

mediate danger and can always walk out of trouble if need be as long as the center remains closed.

16. Qxd3	Re8
----------	-----

I figured that black was playing for some sort of f5 break as positional compensation for capturing the d3 bishop. This move doesn't seem consistent with capturing on d3 although I must admit that it provides a much needed square for the knight and king.

17. hxg5	hxg5
18. f4	

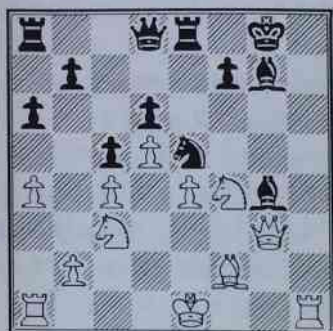
White errs by impatiently breaking open the center before castling.

On the other hand, white's king is under no danger and he must strike while the iron is hot. It is hard to criticize white for wanting to open up the position. However, white's move allows black to free the e5 square for knight, bishop, and rook (and all three use this square!). If at all possible, white would do better to keep the center closed while launching a wing attack.

18.	... gxf4
19. gxf4	exf4
20. Nxf4	Ne5
21. Qg3	Bg4?!

21... Qg5! would have taken the sting out of white's attack. Still, I could not resist the opportu-

nity to keep the white King in the center.



Position after 21. ... Bg4 ?!

22. Kf1 Qd7

I prefer provocative moves like 22. Kd2. The black army is coordinating extremely well in any event. The f4 break on move 18 was a genuine disaster for white.

23. Qh4 Nxe4
24. Nh5 Nd2+
25. Kg2 Bf3+
26. Kg3 Be5+
27. Nf4 Bxh1

I'm only able to point out positional stuff here. Notice that black just traded the light squared bishop for the rook on a1 (in effect). I'm afraid that material values don't count for much in positions like this one. Black needs to be very careful here.

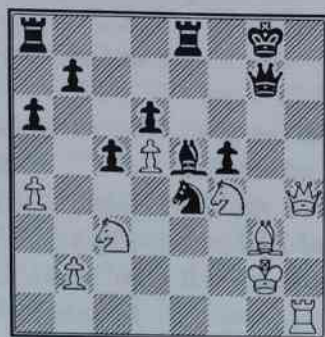
28. Rxh1 f5

Now, THIS is a strong move. Black is glad to offer a pawn to clear his second rank.

29. Kg2 Qg7+

It looks tempting to try 29. ... Re7 and negotiate some heavy exchanges.

30. Bg3 Nxe4?!



Position after 30. ... Nxe4 ?!

30... fxe4 31. Ne6 Qxg3+
32. Qxg3+ Bxg3 33. Kxg3 Re7 34.
Re1 is clearly better.

31. Nxe4 fxe4
32. Kf2 Rf8
33. Ke3 Rae8
34. Nh5 Qh6+?

Black has paid dearly for control of this file. I should have respected that control and stayed the heck off this file. Much better is 34... Bxg3 35. Nxe7 Bxh4 36. Nxe8 Bg5+ (The move I failed to see.) 37. Kxe4 Rxe8+ 38. Kd3 Re5.

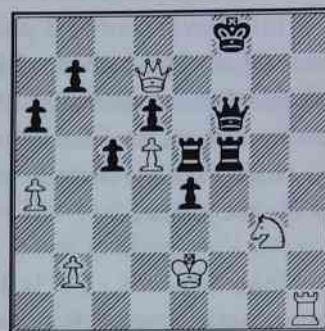
35. Ke2 Rf5
36. Bxe5 Rxe5
37. Qd8+ Kf7?

The simple 37... Rf8 38. Qh4 is OK.

Black still looked wonderful to me after 37. ... Rf8, 38. Qh4. In fact, I would find it hard to resist the immediate 38. ... Rh5, 39. Qh5 Qh5, 40. Rh5 where two extra pawns should be decisive. Black appears to have all the trumps in this position as the e4 pawn isn't even all that important (look at how weak the b2 pawn can be). After 40. ... Kg7, I can't find a de-

cent move for white.

38. Qd7+ Kf8
39. Ng3 Qf6?



Position after 39. ... Qf6 ?

A serious blunder. Fortunately, it is the next to the last mistake. The following line is forced. 39... Qg7 40. Qc8+ Kf7.

40. Nxf5 Rxf5

Of course, 40. Qc8+ is no picnic either. The possibilities range from the bad (40. ... Ke7, 41. Rh7+, Qf7, 42. Nf5+ Rf5, 43. Qf5) to worse (40. ... Kf7, 41. Rh7+, Qg7, 42. Qd7+, Re7, 43. Rg7+ Kg7, 44. Nf5+). The last ugly try is 40. ... Kg7, 41. Qh8+, Kg6 (41. ... Kf7, 42. Rh7+, Kg6, 43. Qg8+, Qg7, 44. Qg7 mate), 42. Rh6+, Kg5, 43. Rxf6, Rxf6, 44. Qh5+, Kf4, 45. Qh4 mate. Best then, is 40. ... Re8, 41. Qxf5 and the extra knight is worth much more than the pawns.

41. Rh8+?

The last mistake. My opponent hopes for a perpetual check draw. There is no perpetual check. Furthermore, he fails to see that he has a winning line set up by my 39th move.

(continued on page 19)

1998 Vulcan Open *by Bob Rieves*

Open Section

Bill Melvin scored 3 points to win the 1998 Vulcan Open. Bill had two hard draws from Tim Bond and Ranil Guneratne of Mobile to win the Open section. Kyle Therrell repeats as Alabama G/10 champ with a perfect score of 4 points, all hard fought games.

John Morcos, 13, is Birmingham's finest scholastic player and Alabama's best 13 year old chess star. In 1996, John made the Top 50 list for his age group and has been there ever since. John played stronger players in all his Open Section games and gained 16 rating points for his play. He tied for 2nd in the Quick Chess event. Here is the game John considers his best from the Open Section:

Ulric Aeria - John Morcos

Open Section - Round 4

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bb5 a6 4 Be6 dxc 5 O-O Bg4 6 h3 Bf3 7 Qf3 Bc5 8 d3 Ne7 9 Nd2 O-O 10 Nc4 Ng6 11 Qh3 Qe7 12 Bg5 f6 13 Be3 Be3 14 Ne3 Nf4 15 Rfe1 Qf7 16 Nf5 Kh8 17 Rad1 c5 18 b3 b5 19 Qg4 g6 20 Ng3 Rg8 21 Rd2 Rad8 22 Kh2 c4 23 d4 cxb 24 axb Ne6 25 d5 Nd4 26 Ra1 Rd6 27 Qd1 b4 28 Ra4 Rb8 29 Ne2 Ne2 30 Qe2 Rbb6 31 Qc4 f5 32 Rb4 fxe 33 Qe4 Rb4 34 Qb4 Rd5 35 Rd5 Qd5 36 Qf8 Qg8 37 Qf6 Qg7 38 Qd8 Qg8 39 Qc7 Qe6 40 c4 Qf6 41 Qc8 Kg7 42 Qd7 Kh6 43 Qd2 Kg7 44 Qe3 a5 45 g3 e4 46 Kg2 Qe5 47 h4 Kf8 48 Qf4 Qf4 49 gxf Ke7 50 f3 e3 51 Kf1 Kd6 52 Ke2 Kc5 53 Ke3 Kb4 54 Kd3 1-0

Reserve Section

Xavier Martine, 17, won the Reserve Section with a perfect score, gaining 65 rating points. At the end of 1994, Xavier was rated 1025, now at 1729 he is some 700 points better. According to the USCF "Win Expectancy" table, the new improved Xavier should defeat the old model 98 games out of 100 - that's 49 times better. Here is

one of Xavier's games.

Gerald Wheeler - Xavier Martine

Reserve Section - Round 4

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 a6 6 Bc4 Qc7 7 Bb3 e6 8 Bg5 Be7 9 f4 Nc6 10 Qd2 h6 11 BxN BxB 12 Nde2 Na5 13 O-O-O NxB+ 14 axN Be7 15 g4 Bd7 16 Kb1 O-O-O 17 Qd4 Rhg8 18 Qa7 Qc5! 19 QxQ dxQ 20 Rd2 Bc6 21 Rhd1 RxR 22 RxR Rd8 23 Kc1 g5 24 f5 exf5 25 RxR+ KxR 26 exf5 Bd6 27 h3 Bg2 28 Ng1 Bh2 29 Nce2 Kd7 30 Kd2 Kc6 31 Ke3 Be5 32 c3 Bd5 33 c4 Bg2 34 Nc3?? Bd4+ 35 Kd3 BxN 36 Ne4 Bxh3 37 Nf6 Bd4 38 Ng8 Bxb2 39 Bxh6 Bg7 40 Nxf7 Bxg4 41 Ke4 Bf6 42 Ne5 BxN 43 KxB Bxf5 44 KxB b5 45 cxb5 Kxb5 0-1

Roy Martin, with 3 1/2 points, placed second gaining 67 rating points for his fine play. Roy had an excellent result in the G/10 event, scoring 2 points to win the U1300 prize. Rated 761 at the end of 1995, Roy has gained nearly 600 points. Here is Roy's best game.

Roy Martin - Patrick Kee

Reserve Section - Round 3

1 e4 c6 2 d4 d5 3 ed cd 4 Nf3 Bf5 5 Be2 Nf6 6 Bg5 e6 7 O-O Be7 8 c3 O-O 9 Nbd2 Ne4 10 BxB QxB 11 Re1 Nd6 12 c4 dxc4 13 Nxc4 Nxc4 14 Bxc4 Qb4 15 Qb3 QxQ 16 BxQ Nd7 17 Rac1 Rac8 18 Ba4 Nb6 19 Bb3 Bd3 20 Ne5 Bb5 21 h3 Rfd8 22 Rc5 Ba4 23 BxB NxB 24 Ra5 Rxd4 25 Rxa7 Rb4 26 Rd1 Nc5 27 Rc1 f6 28 Nd3 1-0

David Sloan, 14, scored 3 points and gained 50 rating points to win the Top C prize. Last summer at the US Open David gained over 200 rating points and his play continues to improve. Here is one of David's games.

David Sloan - Xavier Martine

Reserve Section - Round 3

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 a6 6 Be3 e6 7 Bd3 Be7 8 O-O Qc7 9 f4 O-O 10 g4

Nc6 11 g5 Nd7 12 Rf3 Nxd4 13 Bxd4 f6 14 h4 b5 15 a3 Bb7 16 Rg3 e5 17 fxe5 dxe5 18 Be3 Bc5 19 Bxc5 Qxc5+ 20 Kh2 fxe5 21 Rxe5 Qf2+ 22 Rg2 Qxh4+ 23 Kg1 Rf4 24 Qe1 Raf8 25 Qxh4 Rxh4 26 Rf1 Rxf1+ 27 Kxf1 Nf6 Re2 Nh5 29 Re3 Nf4 30 Kf2 Rh2+ 31 Kg1 Rh4 32 Kf2 Kf7 33 a4 bxa4 34 Nxa4 Bc6 35 Nc5 Nxd3+ 36 Nxd3 Ke6 37 Nc5+ Kd6 38 Nxa6 Rf4+ 39 Kg3 Rxe4 40 Rd3+ Rd4 41 Re3 h5 42 Kh3 Bd7+ 43 Kh2 h4 44 Nc5 g5 45 Nxd7 Kxd7 46 Kh3 Ke6 47 Re3 Rd2 48 Re3 Kf5 49 b4 g4+ 50 Kxh4 Rh2+ 0-1

Scott Miller has just completed his first year of college. Scott's fine play has been recognized for several years at the Birmingham Chess Club. Scott gained 37 points and scored 2.5 points. His last round game with David Hayes was a thriller and could have gone either way. David and Bill Melvin have annotated this game elsewhere in this issue.

Novice Section

Scott Varagona, 14, playing in his second rated chess tournament, won all his games to win this section. By the way, Scott had a perfect score in his first tournament as well. Here is one of Scott's games.

Scott Varagona - Keith Artman Novice Section - Round 2

1 d4 Nf6 2 e4 e6 3 Bg5 h6 4 Bxf6 Qxf6 5 Nc3 Bb4 6 a3 Bxc3+ 7 bxc3 b6 8 e4 O-O 9 Nh3 c5 10 e5 Qe7 11 Qf3 Nc6 12 Bd3 Bb7 13 Qe4 f5 14 exf6 Qxf6 15 O-O Na5 16 Qe3 Rae8 17 dxc5 bxc5 18 Rab1 d6 19 Rb5 Qxc3 20 Bh6+ 1-0

Brennan Young has been playing chess since 1996. With 2 victories, Brennan won the Top E prize. More importantly, Brennan just won a bet from his dad, chess promoter and player Tom Young, by passing the 1100 level first. Way to go Brennan! Here is one of Brennan's games.

Jess Jenkins - Brennan Young Novice Section - Round 3

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bb5 a6 4 Bxc6 dc 5 O-O Be5 6 d3 Bg4 7 h3 Bh5 8 Be3 Bxe3 9 fe Qd6 10 Nbd2 Nf6 11 Nc4 Qe6 12 Qd2 Bxf3 13 gf Qxh3 14 Qf2 O-O-O 15 Nxe5 Qe6 16 f4 g5 17 Qg3 gf 18 ef Rhg8 19 Ng4 Rxg4 20 f5 Rxg3+ 21 Kh1 Qe8 22 Rg1 Qg8 23 e5 Qg5 24 Kh2 Qh4++ 0-1

Thanks to Senior TD Ken Sloan for directing this event; every round on time (yes, even the G/10), quiet playing conditions and excellent spectator set-up.

Finally, a special thanks to Bill Melvin, Gerald Wheeler, Frank Brown, David Hayes, Ralph Holloway and Keith Artman from Huntsville for supporting our tournament.

Vulcan Open - May 23-24 1998 - Open Section

#	Player	Prev	Perf	Post	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Score
1	Bill Melvin	2237	2126	2227	D 3	W 6	W 4	D 5	3.0
2	Ulric Aeria	2110	2021	2098	L 4	W 8	D 3	W 6	2.5
3	Ranil Guneratne	1914	2163	1953	D 1	W 5	D 2	D 4	2.5
4	Jeffrey Wien	1889	2119	1923	W 2	W 7	L 1	D 3	2.5
5	Tim Bond	2017	1962	2007	D 6	L 3	W 7	D 1	2.0
6	John Morcos	1882	1991	1898	D 5	L 1	W 8	L 2	1.5
7	Caesar Lawrence	1813	1835	1816	W 8	L 4	L 5	F	1.0
8	Jere Roland	1998	1535	1942	L 7	L 2	L 6	F	0.0

Vulcan Open - May 23-24 - Reserve Section

1	Xavier Martine	1664	2074	1729	W 15	W 3	W 4	W 6	4.0
2	Roy Martin	1282	1846	1349	W 10	W 18	W 9	Hbye	3.5
3	David Hayes	1751	1774	1754	W 11	L 1	W 10	W 7	3.0
4	David Sloan	1477	1789	1527	W 5	W 11	L 1	W 8	3.0
5	Donald Yessick	1327	1678	1382	L 4	W 16	W 17	W 11	3.0
6	Gerald A. Wheeler	1695	1714	1696	W 13	W 12	D 7	L 1	2.5
7	Scott Alan Miller	1515	1749	1552	W 17	W 15	D 6	L 3	2.5
8	W. P. Collins	1702	1524	1672	L 12	D 9	W 15	L 4	1.5
9	Patrick Kee	1585	1461	1571	W 16	D 8	L 2	F	1.5
10	James C. Dean	1455	1445	1450	L 2	W 17	L 3	D 15	1.5
11	Ralph Holloway	1661	1289	1603	L 3	L 4	W 16	L 5	1.0
12	James R. Bowen	1659	1699	1662	W 8	L 6	F	F	1.0
13	W. V. Higginbotham	1619	1296	1606	L 6	bye	F	F	1.0
14	James F. Brown	1365	1699	1378	W 18	F	F	F	1.0
15	Jack P. Gwin	1774	1284	1696	L 1	L 7	L 8	D 10	0.5
16	Richard W. Ellis	1400	1187	1365	L 9	L 5	L 11	D 17	0.5
17	Fred E. Wood	1374	1124	1334	L 7	L 10	L 5	D 16	0.5
18	Christopher L. Oliver	1487	0925	1299	L 14	L 2	F	F	0.0

Vulcan Open - May 23-24 1998 - Novice Section

1	Scott Varagona	UNR	1495	1495	W 6	W 2	W 8	W 3	4.0
2	Keith Artman	1034	1338	1186	W 8	L 1	W 6	W 5	3.0
3	Charles D. Hays	UNR	1431	1431	W 4	W 7	W 5	L 1	3.0
4	Brennan G. Young	1078	1054	1076	L 3	L 5	W 9	W 8	2.0
5	Robert M. Rieves	1274	1099	1252	Hbye	W 4	L 3	L 2	1.5
6	Thomas H. Young	1032	968	1023	L 1	Hbye	L 2	W 9	1.5
7	Jim O'Neal Griffin	1175	1079	1155	W 9	L 3	F	F	1.0
8	William Utt	UNR	888	888	L 2	W 9	L 1	L 4	1.0
9	Jess Jenkins	UNR	0623	0623	L 7	L 8	L 4	L 6	0.0



Scholastic Section



How to Read and Write Chess

Bob Rieves has expressed concern that most of our Scholastic players have not yet formed the habit of making a record of the moves played in their games. It is important to learn and use chess notation for several reasons, for example: (1) it unlocks the whole world of chess literature which players must be exposed to if they are to progress beyond the 'beginning player' level; (2) it allows players to go over their games long after they are concluded (especially their losses) to identify and correct mistakes; (3) the very act of writing down the moves of a game tends to slow its pace somewhat, and most Scholastic players move much too quickly; (4) it serves as documentation and could prevent disputes from arising, especially in situations involving the chess clock.

No one submitted a "Chess Parents" article for this issue, so I am inserting the following explanation of 'algebraic chess notation' (which I have adapted from an article in School Mates) in the place where the "Chess Parents" article normally appears. Scholastic players and parents: there is absolutely no reason to be frightened by the adjective 'algebraic'. As you will shortly see, this system of notation is exactly as easy to use as reading a road map! - R.P.

The most popular system for writing down chess moves (and the one usually used in *Alabama Chess Antics*) is called *algebraic notation*. The main idea is that every square has a name like this:

BLACK

a8	b8	c8	d8	e8	f8	g8	h8
a7	b7	c7	d7	e7	f7	g7	h7
a6	b6	c6	d6	e6	f6	g6	h6
a5	b5	c5	d5	e5	f5	g5	h5
a4	b4	c4	d4	e4	f4	g4	h4
a3	b3	c3	d3	e3	f3	g3	h3
a2	b2	c2	d2	e2	f2	g2	h2
a1	b1	c1	d1	e1	f1	g1	h1

WHITE

Note that the square names work just like map coordinates - any vertical row of squares (called a *file*) has the same letter name, and any horizontal row of squares (called a *rank*) has the same number name. In contrast to *descriptive notation* (which we will learn about in the next issue), White and Black call the squares by the same names.

The chess pieces also have symbol names. In English, these are:

K: King **Q: Queen** **R: Rook**
B: Bishop **N: Knight**

We use 'N' for Knight since the first letter for this piece, 'K', is already taken by the King. When we write down a move, we write the letter name of the piece that is moving (or capturing) followed by the name of the square

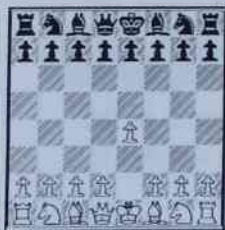
the piece moves to. One exception to this: when a pawn moves, we simply write the name of the square it moves to - we do not use 'P' or any other symbol for pawn. If a pawn captures, we write the name of the *file* it moves from, followed by the name of the square it moves to.

Some players use an 'x' between the piece name and the square name to stand for a capture, feeling that this adds clarity, while others don't use the 'x' in order to save space. In addition, there are the following special symbols:

O-O	K-side castle
O-O-O	Q-side castle
!	good move
?	bad move
!!	brilliant move
??	blunder
+	check
++	checkmate
...	Black move given separately

Now here is a complete game for you to play through to gain practice using algebraic notation. A diagram is given after each move by each player, and the algebraic notation for the move appears below the diagram. For reasons of space, the game had to be a very short one.

A.B. Meek vs. Amateur, New Orleans 1855



1. e4



1. ... e5



2. f4



2. ... exf4



3. Nf3



3. ... d5



4. Nc3



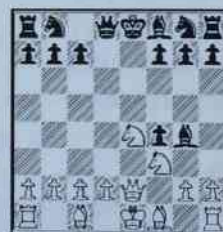
4. ... dxe4



5. Nxe4



5. ... Bg4



6. Qe2



6. ... Bxf3 ??



7. Nf6++

OK, kids and parents ... for some fun and more practice with algebraic notation, try playing through the game between Godzilla and Barney that is described in the next article!

GODZILLA vs. BARNEY

by Bill Melvin

Announcer 1: We are gathered here today on Pay-Per-View for a most monumental event.

Announcer 2: Yes! Godzilla and Barney the Dinosaur are linking up in a chess match with high stakes: loser leaves the planet!

Announcer 1: There has been lots of interest and hype in this ultimate confrontation. Interviews with both contestants have been all over the headlines of the major newspapers for the past couple weeks.

Announcer 2: For some reason, people have found it easy to identify with the combatants in this match. Both parties have quite a few fans. The younger fans below age 8 or so are huge Barney fans. Their parents also like the purple dinosaur. Yet, many of the older kids actually hope that bad things happen to Barney. This is hard to understand since Barney lives by a creed of love and imagination.

Announcer 1: In contrast, Godzilla has few

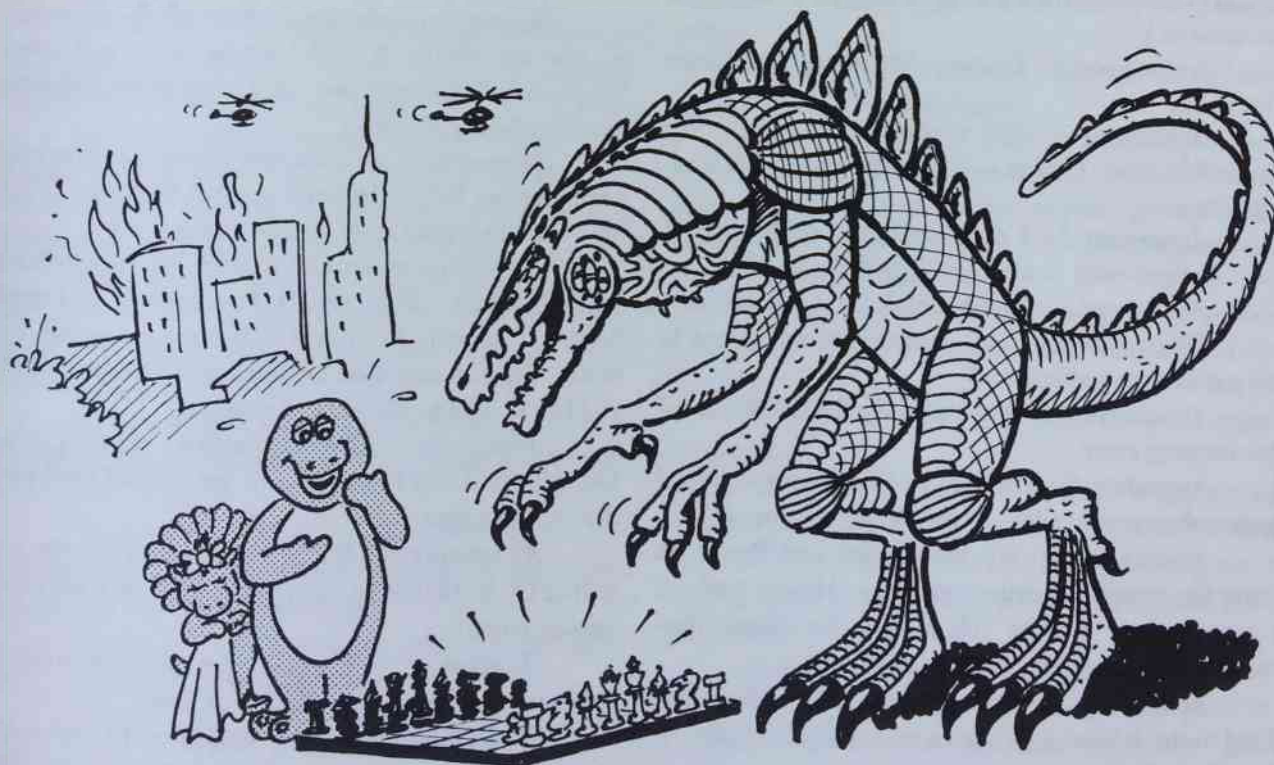
genuine fans. He has been most destructive in his behavior of late. His carelessness with entire cities has made many enemies.

Announcer 2: Whoever you are rooting for, this should prove to be quite a contest. We even have a special arbiter for this match.

Announcer 1: Yes, none other than Bobby Fischer has been allowed back into the country to serve as referee. The State Department backed down on its sanctions against Fischer after Godzilla threatened to squash Washington into a junk yard.

Announcer 2: No question of a bluff here either. Godzilla has already torn up many cities. He would have no problem squashing Washington. The State Department actually paid Fischer to bring him back.

Announcer 1: Fischer should make an excellent judge. Nobody understands the game better than Fis-



cher. He seems motivated to do a fine job.

Announcer 2: Things weren't so clear early on, though. Fischer suggested playing by Fischer rules whereby the pieces start randomly from the back rank. He also wanted to use the Fischer clock. Plus, the Fischer set, Fischer chair, Fischer noise-proofing system, and Fischer wallpaper. But, Godzilla gave him a firm "NO!!!" and Fischer decided that the current arrangements were just fine. Fischer seems almost meek around Godzilla.

Announcer 1: Well, I see they are getting about ready to begin. Let's go watch the start of this exciting game.

[A chess table is set up in the middle of an auditorium. No clock or chairs are present by the table. Barney hops in cheerfully singing 'I Love You' and is flanked by Baby Bop and B.J. About the time he arrives at the board two big doors open at the other end of the auditorium. With a growl, Godzilla stomps into the playing site. Three big steps and he is up to the board.]

Godzilla: ARGH!!!

[Godzilla smashes the board with his fist. He shoves Barney hard across the auditorium. Barney crashes into the wall and limps away with the help of Baby Bop and B.J. After some boos, Godzilla smashes a wall in the auditorium and leaves a different way than he came in.]

Announcer 1: Oh my. We weren't expecting this at all.

Announcer 2: This is bound to be grounds for disqualification. Fischer is intently studying a rulebook right now.

Announcer 1: I do hope Barney is all right. I can't imagine what came over Godzilla.

Announcer 2: Time to break for a commercial.

[The following day. Announcers are seated in the patched up auditorium.]

Announcer 1: We are back for the conclusion of this exciting event.

Announcer 2: Godzilla and Barney have agreed to play their game today. Loser leaves the planet.

Announcer 1: We should note that Barney is doing fine after the incident yesterday. He just suffered a couple minor bruises. He said he felt "Super-dee-dooper" at the press conference earlier today.

Announcer 2: Fischer was unable to find anything in the rulebook to use to disqualify Godzilla. It doesn't explicitly say you cannot smash the chess set and your opponent in the chess rulebook. Fischer didn't

consider the episode to be unsportsmanlike either saying that he had done a lot worse.

Announcer 1: Fischer did get Godzilla to agree that such a repeat action would result in Godzilla forfeiting the game. Godzilla agreed to this under the new tiebreaking rule.

Announcer 2: The new tiebreaking rule is whoever can pound the other into the ground. Godzilla likes this rule a lot. I'm sure we'll see some lively chess from Barney today because of this rule.

Announcer 1: The players are getting ready to begin again.

[The same chess table is set up in the middle of the auditorium. Barney comes to the board singing 'Hurry Hurry, Drive the Firetruck.' Baby Bop and B.J. skip along behind as usual. Barney stands uneasily before the board and waits. The doors at the opposite end of the auditorium slowly open. Godzilla deliberately walks into the auditorium and everyone is very quiet. He arrives at the board, gives a slight grunt and plays **1. d2-d4.**]

Announcer 1: Godzilla has opened by moving his queen's pawn out two squares. This is an excellent move and indicates that the big guy has probably been studying some chess theory while not trashing towns. This doesn't bode well for Barney.

Announcer 2: Barney looks confident though.

[Barney moves his knight from **g8-f6**. He jumps in the air doing a 360 degree spin and says 'Stupendous!' Godzilla lets out a short growl and Barney jumps back shaken.]

Announcer 1: It looks like Barney has prepared some sort of Indian Defense against Godzilla. This may actually prove to be an interesting game.

[Godzilla accidentally touches his king without saying 'I adjust.' Barney yells 'Touch move!' and spins around. Godzilla lets out a loud roar and shakes his head. Fischer sees that Godzilla is about to explode and lets Godzilla take back the move.]

Announcer 2: Did you see that? It appears that Godzilla is using his brawn to get special treatment during this game.

Announcer 1: But, do you want to be the one telling Godzilla that he has to play his king from **e1-d2** on move two?

Announcer 2: Certainly not, but rules must be followed in a game as important as this.

[Godzilla picks up his **knight** on **b1** and confidently places it on **d2**. Barney lapses into deep thought.]

Announcer 1: Nd2 certainly wasn't the best move in this position. I'm a little disappointed.

Announcer 2: I'm not. It is playable, develops a piece, and prepares c2-c4. Godzilla obviously feared preparation by Barney and is sidestepping known theory just to be safe.

Announcer 1: Barney has been playing a lot with Baby Bop lately, but I wouldn't select a move that restricts the bishop on c1 like that.

[Barney picks up his e-pawn and puts it back down again. Godzilla screams out "Touch move" loud enough to shatter two of the lights in the auditorium. Fischer comes over to explain to Barney that he must move the e-pawn since he touched it. Barney complies by playing e7-e5.]

Announcer 2: Oh my! Doesn't this just drop a pawn?

Announcer 1: Not necessarily. This idea is seen in the Budapest Defense. Barney looks confident too. He may have something up his sleeve.

[Godzilla captures the black e-pawn with his d-pawn by playing d4xe5. He throws the pawn on the floor, stomps on it, and lets out another roar.]

Announcer 1: Godzilla is a fearsome opponent to face. Barney has more courage than most of us thought.

[Barney quickly picks up the **knight** on f6 and moves it to g4.]

Announcer 1: Black plans to recapture the pawn on e5 with the g4 knight. He hasn't really lost a pawn. He has only unbalanced the position.

[Godzilla picks up his h-pawn and moves it from h2-h3 threatening the knight. He looks away like he is not threatening anything. It is hard for a huge monster to look nonchalant, but Godzilla is trying.]

Announcer 2: In general, pawn moves like this don't serve much of a purpose. He is just forcing Barney to play the move that he wanted to anyway. That e5 pawn is toast.

[Barney picks the **knight** up from g4, moves it to e3, and screws it into the table. He gives an evil grin and cackles.]

Announcer 2: What is this? Barney has just dropped a knight. Godzilla only needs to play f2xe3 and Barney will be a piece down.

Announcer 1: Not so fast. After 5. f2xe3, Barney would play 5. ... Qd8-h4 check.

Announcer 2: But then, Godzilla could play 6. g2-g3, right?

Announcer 1: Not really. Barney would play Qh4xg3 with checkmate. Godzilla must lose his queen

here.

[Godzilla smashes the board again and lets out another deafening roar. Barney flees quickly across the floor before Godzilla can touch him. Godzilla breaks through the wall again and flees the building. Several cars can be heard crashing in the parking lot as Godzilla proceeds to loot the city.]

Announcer 1: Fischer just disqualified Godzilla. This match is over.

Announcer 2: Godzilla will be forced to leave the planet now. I have no idea who can enforce this, but I hear that a special rocket was procured just for this task.

Announcer 1: As it stands, it looks like there will be quite a bit of destruction tonight while Godzilla takes out his frustration on the city. Maybe this match wasn't such a good idea.

Announcer 2: We now have a chance to talk with the victor. Ladies and gentlemen, here is Barney the Dinosaur.

Barney: Super-dee-dooper! Glad everyone came! Hope you had a wonderful time!

Announcer 2: Barney, what gave you the confidence to face Godzilla under such terms? How did you believe you had a chance?

Barney: I just used my IMAGINATION! I imagined that I could beat a big mean monster like Godzilla. Anything is possible if you use your imagination!

Announcer 2: I suppose. Did you do any special preparation for this match?

Barney: Not really. I did look through the Guinness Book of World Records, though. I remember that they gave these moves as the shortest game ever between Masters. I remembered that white resigned here, but I don't have a clue why!

Announcer 2: Well, in the original game white actually gave up his queen and played on for a few moves.

Barney: Oh. So I was threatening his queen? Stupendous!

Announcer 2: This is a shocker. It appears that Barney has seen one game of chess and emerged victorious after his opponent played the same losing moves. Call it dumb luck, but Barney won this game due to preparation.

Barney: I just used my imagination!

[Barney leaves the announcers and goes to a press conference. Film crews are everywhere. Someone suggests a match between Barney and Deep Blue...]

My Best Game from the 1998 ASMS Amateur Open

by Greg Wilder

At the third annual ASMS Amateur Open, the 17-19 years old category was by far the toughest and deepest category, with nearly ten of the county's top players for that age. Some of the main players in this category this year were: John Bennett- Fairhope High School's number 1 player; Trent Sims - a teammate of mine who won the reserve at the Queen of Hearts; Van Baucum- ASMS's Board 3; and me - who won the 15-16 year old category at the previous category in a playoff versus a teammate of mine in a 10 minute playoff. The games were G/30, and weren't rated, which was a great relief to me because I went 2-3 again. This game was important for me to win, because I was one game back in the standings for the 17-19 year old category, after losing to Thomas Elmes (the board 1 for Murphy High school, and the number rated scholastic player in Mobile and Baldwin county scholastic chess).

ASMS Amateur Open 1998, Round 3 Board 10

WHITE: Greg Wilder (893)

BLACK: Chad Crippen (779)

Comments in italics after moves 4. ... Nd4 and 5. ... Bc5 are by the Editor.

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bc4 Nd4?

An early mistake by Chad gave me a choice: either take the knight with 3. NxN PxN, and stay

even in material or take the pawn with Nxe5 and go up a pawn. I took the pawn.

Black's 3. ... Nd4?! actually set a trap that White fell into, but Black didn't follow up properly. He should have replied to 4. Nxe5 with 4. ... Qg5! Howowitz considered that this position is lost for White! One possible continuation is 5. Nxf7 Qxg2 6. Rc1 Qxe4+ 7. Be2 8. Nf3 mate. A better try for White is 5. Bxf7+ Ke7 6. O-O Qxe5 7. Bxg8 Rxg8 8. c3 Nc6 9. d4 with some compensation for the material according to Keres.

White can get some advantage after Black's attempted swindle 3. ... Nd4 with 4. Nxd4 ed 5. c3 de 6. Nxc3 d6 7. d4 with initiative and control of the center.

4. Nxe5 Qh4 5. Nxf7?!

This could have been a much worse situation for me, because Chad has a very dangerous attack for me after 5. Qxe4+ 6. Kf1, but thankfully for me, he didn't see it and he missed a chance to do some serious damage to me.

5. ... Bc5

He saw that he'd win after 6. Nxh8 Nxc2+ with mate in 1 move because any move for white leads to Qxf2++.

6. Nxh8 Nxc2+ 7. Qxc2 Qxf2+ is not mate.

6. O-O Bd6

Another bid by Chad to pull a quick mate on me, hoping that I wouldn't see 7. Nxh8 Qxh2++, I spoiled his plans with my next move.

7. Nxd6+ cxd6 8. c3 Nc6 9. Qf3

Nf6 10. d3 Ng4 11. Bf4 Nce5 12. Bxe5 dxe5

Here I am forced to trade off my queen, but with 13. Qg3, but I'm not really that worried about the position, because I'm still up two pawns, and not in any immediate danger from Chad yet.

13. Qg3 Qxg3 14. hxxg3 d6 15. f4 exf4

I was hoping to get my doubled pawns un-doubled here, and much to my liking, Chad complied, by trading down: which wasn't in his best interest.

16. gxf4 Ne3 17. Rf3?

This was my biggest mistake in the game, because it nearly cost me the game in the end. It leads to 17. Nc2!, winning a rook. Much better is 17. Rf2, which prevents 17. \85 Nc2, and would flush his knight out, but I blundered here.

17. Nc2! 18. e5 dxe5 19. fxe5 Nxa1

Now he's up a rook for 2 pawns, I knew I was going to have to pull some serious stuff to manage anything other than a loss in this one. I was really waiting for him to blunder again, and I was

hoping to use my passed pawn on e5 to my advantage.

20. Rf7 g6 21. d4 Bf5 22. Na3 b6 23. e6 Rf8??

I was looking for some way to get one of his rooks here without losing too much material in the process, and here he goes handing the whole set to me for only a pawn. I saw that after his blunder on move 23, that I'd win after 24. Bb5+! Kd8 25. Rxf8+. Luckily enough for me, he didn't see this threat and played exactly into a losing combination.

24. Bb5+ Kd8 25. Rxf8+ Kc7 26. Rxa8 Bxe6 27. Rxa7+ Kb8 28. Rxh7 Bxa2 29. Nc4

With my move on move 29, I hoped to entice him to trade minor pieces, even though he was down a rook and 2 pawns at the time. I figured: "Hey!, I'm up a whole lot in material right now, and as it stands, I've got this game won, let's see if I can get some of this

excess clutter off the board."

29. Bxc4 30. Bxc4 Nc2 31. d5 Ne3 32. b3

Once again, I tried the old, "sure-go-ahead-and-trade-down-Im-up-right-now" ploy, figuring that he'd done it once, what was going to stop him now.

32. \85 Nx8 33. bxc4 Kc8 34. Rg7 Kd8 35. Rxc6 Kc7 36. d6+ Kd7 37. g4 Kd8

This was really the only smart move for Chad at the moment. I win after either 37. Ke8 38. Rg7, 37. Kc8 38. Rg7, or 37. b5 38. cxb5

38. Rg7 Ke8

I could have forced a win here with 39. d7+ Kd8 40. g5, but I was feeling a little sadistic so I followed a different game plan.

39. g5 Kf8 40. d7

Okay, so now I did it.

Trading a rook for a promoted pawn is good by any standards. Especially when you're up a rook and 3 pawns in the endgame.

40. KxR 41. d8=Q Kg6 42. Qxb6+ Kxg5 43. Kg2 Kf5 44. c5 Ke4 45. c6 Kd3 46. c7 Kxc3

I guess he figured here that one more pawn of mine off the board would do him some good. Even though I win with 47. c8.

47. c8=R+ Kd3 48. Qd6+ Ke3??

Okay, so maybe blunders at this point in the game aren't really necessary to remark on, but he could have staved off the mate a few more moves with 48. Ke4, which leads to 49. Re8+ Kf5 50. Re5+ Kf4 51. Qd4++.

But he set me up for mate in 1, which I made sure I followed through on.

49. Re8++

(continued from page 9)

(Now 41. Qc8+! Ke7 (Any other King move loses in a similar way.) 42. Rh7+ wins. After this move my opponent seemed to resign himself to his fate perhaps because of time pressure. He had many alternative lines which offered more resistance, but little time to consider them.

Yuck! What a lemon. I suppose if you miss 41. Qc8+, then you've got to do something.

**41. ... Qxb8
42. Qxf5+ Kg7
43. Qd7+ Kg6
44. Qg4+ Kf6
45. Qe6+ Kg5**

As was mentioned in the post mortem, 45. Qxe4 looks to offer a great deal of resistance. White may even force black to take the perpetual after moves like 45. ... Qh2+, 46. Kd3, Qxb2, 47. Qe6+, Kg5, 48. Qxd6 or the like. Remember, in queen and pawn endgames it is often not how many, but how far advanced. White looks to be no worse if he can capture the e4 and d6 pawns. The game continuation really just drops a tempo. Unfortunately, in endings like this, a single tempo can easily cost the game.

**46. Qxe4 Qxb2+
47. Ke3 Qd4+
48. Qxd4 cxd4+**

White is hopeless now.

49. Kxd4 Kf4 50. a5 Kf5 51. Kd3 Ke5 52. Kc4 Ke4 53. Kc3 Kxe5 54. Kd3 Kc5 55. Kc3 d5 56. Kd2 Kb4 57. Kd3 Kxa5 58. Kd4 Kb4 59. Kxd5 a5 60. Kd4 a4 61. Kd3 Kb3 62. Kd2 Kb2 63. resigns

0 - 1

Hope some of the above is of some use. It is really hard to analyze a wild game like this one. Both sides had plenty of chances. Nice fight!

Scholastic Team Championships *by Dale Robbins*

Throughout the Realm of the great State of Alabama, 34 teams heeded the call to champion their schools in the quest for a State title at the 1998 Alabama Scholastic Team Chess Championship. One hundred thirty-five young competitors from these teams contested the 64 squares at the tournament held at Advent Episcopal Day School in Birmingham on May 9, 1998. Chess themes reigned with team names such as the Knightmares, Mid-Knights, Knights, Poison Pawns, Queens for a Day, King Krushers, Seeing DOUBLE ATTACK-ers, ACME Guard Removers, Battery Powered, and Cook'n with Forks'n Skewers. Some teams preferred names of a more aggressive nature such as Grand Eagles, Dragons, Vipers, and Predators. Then there were some teams which were...different. These included teams like the Super Monkeys and the Three-Toed-Sloths. From the beginning, it was great fun!

Every success is for a reason. The enthusiasm of the contestants carried over into the tournament administration as parents, TD's, and Advent staff gave it their all to provide a wonderful event that everyone would enjoy and remember. My congratulations and appreciation to Peggy Miller and the parents of the Advent Chess Team members! Special accolades to our chief TD, Ken Sloan, on another fine job. Assisting Ken included Life Master Kyle Therrel, Jack Mallory, Scott Bitterman, and Tim Yahr. Thanks to Vasha Rosenblum for the chess problems which the contestants tried to solve between rounds. This is always a favorite with the players.

Due to varying financial challenges unique to this year's event, special assistance was requested and received from a corporate good neighbor. Special appreciation is awarded to Southern Company Services, Inc. for their generous contribution to making this event the success it was.

This year, two teams received free entry into the tournament for winning their respective sections in the 1st annual Jefferson County Scholastic Chess League. South Shades Crest Elementary and John Carroll Catholic High School were our first JCSCL winners. Besides free entry, each team was presented with a handsomely engraved 17.5 inch white pine chess king trophy for their efforts.

Back in the main event, our new 1998 title holders are:

Primary Section

1st Place: Advent King Krushers
Board 1: Sturgeon Christie
Board 2: Sarah Boyd
Board 3: Will Battle
Board 4: Montgomery Brown

2nd Place: Advent Queens for a Day

Board 1: Libby Musgrave
Board 2: Elizabeth Hall
Board 3: Elizabeth Scott
Board 4: Celia Cooper

Elementary Section

1st Place: SSC Knightmares
Board 1: Jordan Jones
Board 2: Brennan Young
Board 3: Mason Williams
Board 4: Jeremy Reed

2nd Place: Advent Cook'n with Forks'n Skewers

Board 1: Lewis Lehe
Board 2: Nathan Hall
Board 3: Forrest Pearce
Board 4: David Hall

Junior High Section

1st Place: Clark Sch Math & Sci-Predators II

Board 1: Chad Crippen
Board 2: Shane Rogers
Board 3: Joshua Mayfield
Board 4: Justin Stewart

2nd Place: Clark Sch Math & Sci-Predators I

Board 1: William Berry
Board 2: James DeAndrade
Board 3: Jonathon Bilbo
Board 4: David Morris-Diaz

High School Section

1st Place: John Carroll - A

Board 1: Xavier Martine
Board 2: Scott Varagona
Board 3: Sam Jernigan
Board 4: Christopher Pilman

2nd Place: Vestavia Hills High School

Board 1: Parakash Pratibhu
Board 2: Shikhar Vohra
Board 3: Vaibhav Vohra
Board 4: Satya Shreenivas

Alabama State Champion: Indian Springs Vipers

Board 1: Kolja Scepanik
Board 2: Roy Martin
Board 3: Pasha Minallah
Board 4: Andrew Beenken

Alabama Scholastic Team - May 9, 1998

High School and Junior High Teams

	R01	R02	R03	R04	R05	Score
1 Indian Springs Viper	W10	W08	W03	W02	W04	5.0
2 John Carroll A	W06	W09	W04	L01	W05	4.0
3 Vestavia Hills HS	D11	W15	L01	W08	W07	3.5
4 Murphy	W07	W05	L02	W10	L01	3.0
5 Predators I	W17	L04	W12	W11	L02	3.0
6 Three-Toed-Sloths	L02	W16	W13	L07	W14	3.0
7 Predators II	L04	W17	W09	W06	L03	3.0
8 Dragons	W12	L01	D11	L03	W15	2.5
9 Mountain Brook JH	W16	L02	L07	W13	D10	2.5
10 John Carroll B	L01	B	W15	L04	D09	2.5
11 Fairhope A	D03	W13	D08	L05	D12	2.5
12 Chapman A	L08	W14	L05	D15	D11	2.0
13 Super Monkeys	B	L11	L06	L09	W17	2.0
14 Chapman B	L15	L12	B	W16	L06	2.0
15 Mountain Brook HS	W14	L03	L10	D12	L08	1.5
16 Fairhope B	L09	L06	D17	L14	B	1.5
17 John Carroll C	L05	L07	D16	B	L13	1.5

Elementary and Primary Teams

Player	R01	R02	R03	R04	R05	Score
1 SSC Knightmares	W06	W04	W10	W02	W08	5.0
2 Cook'n with Forks'n	W08	W03	W07	L01	W10	4.0
3 Randolph A	W09	L02	W12	D10	W11	3.5
4 Holy Spirit White	W13	L01	W16	L06	W15	3.0
5 Battery Powered	W14	L10	L08	W16	W06	3.0
6 Holy Spirit Blue	L01	W13	W14	W04	L05	3.0
7 King Krushers	D15	W12	L02	D11	W14	3.0
8 Mid-Knights	L02	W09	W05	W15	L01	3.0
9 Grand Eagles	L03	L08	W17	W13	W16	3.0
10 Randolph B	W11	W05	L01	D03	L02	2.5
11 SSC Knights	L10	W17	D15	D07	L03	2.0
12 Holy Spirit Primary	W17	L07	L03	L14	B	2.0
13 Queens For a Day	L04	L06	B	L09	W17	2.0
14 ACMEGuardRemover	L05	B	L06	W12	L07	2.0
15 Ridgecrest	D07	D16	D11	L08	L04	1.5
16 Poison Pawns	B	D15	L04	L05	L09	1.5
17 Seeing Double-Attack	L12	L11	L09	B	L13	1.0

High School and Junior High Individuals

Player	R01	R02	R03	R04	R05	Score
1 Scott Varagona	W09	W19	W35	W05	W37	5.0
2 Xavier Martine	W67	W04	W33	D14	W34	4.5
3 Kevin B DeAndrade	W15	W42	W45	W28	D24	4.5
4 David Sloan	W12	L02	W58	W25	W59	4.0
5 Roy Martin	W48	W23	W07	L01	W35	4.0
6 Christopher Pilman	W21	W61	W20	L08	W29	4.0
7 Shikhar Vohra	W38	W66	L05	W23	W57	4.0
8 Andrew Beenken	W26	W32	D36	W06	D20	4.0
9 Van Baucum	L01	W50	W44	W57	W52	4.0
10 Derek S Woodham	W45	W64	W47	L15	W54	4.0
11 Nic Armfield	W27	W24	W63	L18	W60	4.0
12 Tim Fedor	L04	W67	W51	W49	B	4.0
13 Joe Bulger	W36	W30	W32	L29	W62	4.0
14 Kolja C Scepantik	W59	W56	W41	D02	D33	4.0
15 Joshua Mayfield	L03	W31	W43	W10	W18	4.0

16 John Bennett	W41	W25	W56	W34	L22	4.0
17 Taylor A Curtis	W49	D41	W59	W22	L56	3.5
18 Vaibhav Vohra	W63	W60	D24	W11	L15	3.5
19 Ari Friedman	W50	L01	D57	W44	W48	3.5
20 Peter M Johnson	W39	W29	L06	W26	D08	3.5
21 Jason William Vest	L06	B	W30	D39	W55	3.5
22 Ross Hodges	W56	W49	D34	L17	W16	3.5
23 Trent Sims	W40	L05	W38	L07	W66	3.0
24 Pasha Minallah	W28	L11	D18	W45	D03	3.0
25 Greg Wilder	B	L16	W67	L04	W51	3.0
26 Adam Miranda	L08	B	W46	L20	W61	3.0
27 Joshua Screws	L11	W54	L42	W60	W63	3.0
28 Greg Charles	L24	B	W60	L03	W43	3.0
29 David Morris-Diaz	W53	L20	W62	W13	L06	3.0
30 Hafez Alabi	B	L13	L21	W61	W53	3.0
31 Nathan French	W42	L15	W64	B	L47	3.0
32 Robert Moore	W62	L08	L13	W36	W46	3.0
33 Thomas Elmes	W58	L34	L02	W59	D14	2.5
34 William Berry	W51	W33	D22	L16	L02	2.5
35 Tien K Bui	W57	D37	L01	W48	L05	2.5
36 Satya Shreenivas	L13	W46	D08	L32	W39	2.5
37 James DeAndrade	W65	D35	D40	D38	L01	2.5
38 Greg Benke	L07	W44	L23	D37	W40	2.5
39 Justin M Stewart	L20	W53	W61	D21	L36	2.5
40 Norman Dean	L23	W52	D37	W66	L38	2.5
41 Parakash Pratibhu	L16	D17	L14	D56	W58	2.0
42 Jonathan D Bilbo	L31	L03	W27	W63	L45	2.0
43 Richard B Clay	W64	L45	L15	W47	L28	2.0
44 Daniel Harper	B	L38	L09	L19	W65	2.0
45 Sam Jernigan	L10	W43	L03	L24	W42	2.0
46 Hiram Perry	W55	L36	L26	W62	L32	2.0
47 Stephanie Gerdorn	B	L63	L10	L43	W31	2.0
48 Josh Carter	L05	B	W66	L35	L19	2.0
49 Loral Chenault	L17	L22	B	L12	W67	2.0
50 Joe Waldrop	L19	L09	W65	L52	B	2.0
51 Mary Pilman	L34	W58	L12	B	L25	2.0
52 Mark Cooper	L66	L40	B	W50	L09	2.0
53 Michael Mason	L29	L39	B	B	L30	2.0
54 Emily Dean	L60	L27	B	W64	L10	2.0
55 Kati Chapman	L46	L62	B	B	L21	2.0
56 Richard W Yeo	L22	L14	L16	D41	W17	1.5
57 Shane J Rogers	L35	W65	D19	L09	L07	1.5
58 Chad Crippen	L33	L51	L04	W67	L41	1.0
59 Andrew Grundhoefer	L14	B	L17	L33	L04	1.0
60 Tom Staner	W54	L18	L28	L27	L11	1.0
61 Nick Smith	B	L06	L39	L30	L26	1.0
62 Jonathon Senn	L32	W55	L29	L46	L13	1.0
63 Jake Waldrop	L18	W47	L11	L42	L27	1.0
64 Elliott Jones	L43	L10	L31	L54	B	1.0
65 Zach Bond	L37	L57	L50	B	L44	1.0
66 Greg West	W52	L07	L48	L40	L23	1.0
67 William Hooper	L02	L12	L25	L58	L49	0.0

Elementary and Primary Individuals

Player	R01	R02	R03	R04	R05	Score
1 Jordan Jones	W09	W37	W54	W10	W22	5.0
2 Brennan G Young	W39	W20	W49	W21	W23	5.0
3 Forrest Pearce	W68	W25	W44	W14	W64	5.0

4 Uche A Afrika	B	W59	W37	W60	W52	5.0	37 Peter S Petroff	W38	L01	L04	L09	W59	2.0
5 Jack Gerrity	W46	W64	W68	W63	W41	5.0	38 Libby Musgrave	L37	L09	B	L52	W56	2.0
6 Sarah Boyd	W67	W62	W21	W18	W43	5.0	39 Juan L Rodriguez	L02	W57	W43	L20	L24	2.0
7 David Hall	W27	W32	W45	D16	W29	4.5	40 Gregory M Smith	W56	L11	L15	L36	B	2.0
8 Jeremy Mayfield	W25	D68	W61	W26	W63	4.5	41 Ben Jedlovec	L14	L26	W46	W17	L05	2.0
9 Joseph R Chaffee	L01	W38	W36	W37	W60	4.0	42 Paul Voorhees	L48	L29	L27	W53	W34	2.0
10 Lewis Lehe	W22	W15	W11	L01	W54	4.0	43 Allen Hunter	L24	B	L39	W62	L06	2.0
11 Sturgeon Christie	W59	W40	L10	W55	W36	4.0	44 Will Battle	F	W50	L03	L51	W46	2.0
12 Charles Y Johnston	L32	W27	W66	W47	W53	4.0	45 Montgomery Brown	L13	W30	L07	L28	W48	2.0
13 Carthy Bennett	W45	W63	W51	W68	L17	4.0	46 Eric Funderburg	L05	B	L41	W50	L44	2.0
14 Mason Williams	W41	D17	W64	L03	W68	3.5	47 Celia Cooper	L19	L34	B	L12	W66	2.0
15 Thomas P Burwell	W52	L10	W40	D54	W55	3.5	48 Kurt Funderburg	W42	B	L34	L30	L45	2.0
16 Jeremy Reed	W34	W19	W29	D07	F	3.5	49 Walker Allen	D18	W24	L02	D33	L21	2.0
17 Jacklyn E Nagle	W26	D14	W63	L41	W13	3.5	50 Julia Nagle	W61	L44	L25	L46	B	2.0
18 Chris Thomas	D49	W35	W67	L06	W33	3.5	51 Aaron Bailey	L64	W61	L13	W44	L25	2.0
19 Dain Stewart	W47	L16	W53	D34	W65	3.5	52 Mark DeAndrade	L15	L22	W56	W38	L04	2.0
20 Bobby Baltar	W57	L02	D58	W39	W67	3.5	53 Stephen Johanson	B	W65	L19	L42	L12	2.0
21 Nathan Hall	W23	W33	L06	L02	W49	3.0	54 Brad Harkey	L55	W60	L01	D15	L10	1.5
22 Nathanael Chandler	L10	W52	W60	W59	L01	3.0	55 Patrick Gilbert	W54	D56	L59	L11	L15	1.5
23 Andrew J Rozsa	L21	W31	W24	W67	L02	3.0	56 E T Brown	L40	D55	L52	B	L38	1.5
24 Sophie Cooper	W43	L49	L23	W58	W39	3.0	57 Elizabeth W Hall	L20	L39	B	L31	D35	1.5
25 Kishan Yerubandi	L08	L03	W50	W64	W51	3.0	58 Thomas Shattuck	B	L67	D20	L24	L31	1.5
26 Elizabeth Scott	L17	W41	B	L08	W61	3.0	59 Phillip L Causey	L11	L04	W55	L22	L37	1.0
27 Mark Fleming	L07	L12	W42	W65	B	3.0	60 Travis Briles	W36	L54	L22	L04	L09	1.0
28 Evan Bryant	L29	B	W65	W45	L32	3.0	61 Marie Wilson	L50	L51	L08	B	L26	1.0
29 Prasanth Ravidati	W28	W42	L16	W32	L07	3.0	62 Maggie Meehan	L35	L06	L33	L43	B	1.0
30 Matthew Smith	W66	L45	L32	W48	B	3.0	63 Max Griffies	B	L13	L17	L05	L08	1.0
31 Kristin Musgrove	L33	L23	W35	W57	W58	3.0	64 Tristan Call	W51	L05	L14	L25	L03	1.0
32 Jason Sabio	W12	L07	W30	L29	W28	3.0	65 Shauvez Bennett	B	L53	L28	L27	L19	1.0
33 John E Gipson	W31	L21	W62	D49	L18	2.5	66 Chris Hutchins	L30	F	L12	B	L47	1.0
34 Elizabeth Nagle	L16	W47	W48	D19	L42	2.5	67 Geoffrey James	L06	W58	L18	L23	L20	1.0
35 Trey Kennedy	W62	L18	L31	B	D57	2.5	68 Andrew Chandler	L03	D08	L05	L13	L14	0.5
36 Tim Beenken	L60	B	L09	W40	L11	2.0							

From the Editor *by Rhodes Peele*

The cartoon on page 15 is by Bill Lange. You may have seen his work in *Chess Life*. I enjoyed 'our' Bill's humor article so much that I thought it deserved to be adorned by some artwork.

A few mistakes and typos slipped into the last issue. Thanks to Bob Reives for pointing out most of these errors on my part.

1) On page 9, the "1 - 0" at the very end should be "0 - 1" (but the word "resigns" is in the right place). I apologize to Stephen Muhammad for this error.

2) On page 19, move 6. ... Bb7 should be changed to 6. ... Bg7, and 20. Bxb7 should be changed to 20. Bxg7. Also, move 17. fxN is not standard algebraic notation (something I should care about I guess in view of the article on pages

13 and 14). The right way to notate this move is 17. fxe4.

3) On page 17 (Dr. Rachels's article), move 17. KxR should be changed to 17. NxR.

I should mention to *Antics* readers (especially contributors) that every issue must somehow be formatted so that the total number of pages is a multiple of four. Also, to contain costs, the number of pages must be controlled. These factors have combined to create a small backlog of material (for example, crosstables and an opening theory article), but my more serious (and continuing) problem as Editor is getting enough material together to make a decent issue. ACF members, this is your newsletter. A good way to make it better is to contribute an article.

Alabama Scholastic Individual Championships

Open

Player	R01	R02	R03	R04	R05	Score
1 Andrew W Whatley	B	W07	W03	W02	W04	5.0
2 Andy Reeder	W12	W11	W05	L01	W06	4.0
3 James Lee Richardson	W13	W08	L01	W06	W05	4.0
4 Thomas Elmes	L10	W15	W09	W14	L01	3.0
5 Taylor A Curtis	W14	W10	L02	W08	L03	3.0
6 Jordan Jones	W15	W17	W12	L03	L02	3.0
7 Parakash P Pratibhu	W18	L01	D13	W19	D10	3.0
8 Pasha Minallah	W16	L03	W17	L05	W14	3.0
9 Joshua A Cowart	L17	B	L04	W16	W13	3.0
10 Ross Hodges	W04	L05	W11	D13	D07	3.0
11 Satya S Shreenivas	W19	L02	L10	L12	B	2.0
12 Greg Benke	L02	W18	L06	W11	L16	2.0
13 John Bennett	L03	W16	D07	D10	L09	2.0
14 Jake Waldrop	L05	W19	W15	L04	L08	2.0
15 Je Keeler	L06	L04	L14	W17	W19	2.0
16 Norman R Dean	L08	L13	W18	L09	W12	2.0
17 Jeshua Screws	W09	L06	L08	L15	W18	2.0
18 Littertory McCall	L07	L12	L16	B	L17	1.0
19 Jonathan A Senn	L11	L14	B	L07	L15	1.0

Junior High

Player	R01	R02	R03	R04	R05	Score
1 William Berry	W09	W04	W02	W08	D05	4.5
2 David Sloan	W11	W03	L01	W06	W04	4.0
3 Roy Martin	W07	L02	L04	W10	W08	3.0
4 Ari Friedman	W10	L01	W03	W07	L02	3.0
5 Kevin B DeAndrade	D08	L06	W11	W09	D01	3.0
6 Matthew Johnson	B	W05	L08	L02	W11	3.0
7 Chris Newbolt	L03	W11	W10	L04	B	3.0
8 Chris Day	D05	W09	W06	L01	L03	2.5
9 Devon M King	L01	L08	B	L05	W10	2.0
10 Crystal Hampton	L04	B	L07	L03	L09	1.0
11 Sharon King	L02	L07	L05	B	L06	1.0

Elementary

Player	R01	R02	R03	R04	R05	Score
1 Kendra King	W15	W12	W09	W04	W06	5.0
2 Brennan G Young	W14	W22	W05	L06	W10	4.0
3 Joseph R Chaffee	W27	W13	L06	W24	W11	4.0
4 Jason Young	W34	W19	W17	L01	W09	4.0
5 Jonathan Thigpen	W28	W31	L02	W07	W16	4.0
6 Nathanael W Chandler	W29	W32	W03	W02	L01	4.0
7 Mason Williams	W35	W25	W16	L05	D08	3.5
8 John E Gipson	W18	L17	W27	W25	D07	3.5
9 Andrew Rozsa	W30	W33	L01	W13	L04	3.0
10 Forrest Pearce	L19	W34	W15	W17	L02	3.0
11 Julian Pline	L31	W28	W29	W19	L03	3.0
12 Stephen Harris	B	L01	W18	L16	W31	3.0
13 Paul Voorhees	B	L03	W32	L09	W27	3.0
14 Christina Anderson	L02	L36	W28	W29	W21	3.0

15 Kishan Yerubandi	L01	W30	L10	W36	W22	3.0
16 Walker Allen	W24	W20	L07	W12	L05	3.0
17 Jimmie Johnson	W23	W08	L04	L10	W24	3.0
18 Jabari Williams	L08	W26	L12	W20	W25	3.0
19 James DeAndrade	W10	L04	W22	L11	W23	3.0
20 Cody G Lindsey	W38	L16	D33	L18	W34	2.5
21 Anthony Reynolds	L33	W35	L25	W34	L14	2.0
22 Mason Mack	W37	L02	L19	W32	L15	2.0
23 Patrick Gilbert	L17	L29	W36	W35	L19	2.0
24 Matthew C Michel	L16	W37	W31	L03	L17	2.0
25 Josh Crichton	W36	L07	W21	L08	L18	2.0
26 Alex Boroff	F	L18	L30	W38	W33	2.0
27 Kevin Pelton	L03	W38	L08	W30	L13	2.0
28 Scotty De Priest	L05	L11	L14	W37	W35	2.0
29 Adam Burt	L06	W23	L11	L14	W37	2.0
30 Mary E Givens	L09	L15	W26	L27	W36	2.0
31 Kristin Musgrove	W11	L05	L24	W33	L12	2.0
32 Charles Snoddy	B	L06	L13	L22	W38	2.0
33 Matt Young	W21	L09	D20	L31	L26	1.5
34 David H Lowry	L04	L10	W38	L21	L20	1.0
35 Marc R Schoenherr	L07	L21	W37	L23	L28	1.0
36 Tomasa Hughes	L25	W14	L23	L15	L30	1.0
37 Rachel Mortazavi	L22	L24	L35	L28	L29	0.0
38 Evan Stalker	L20	L27	L34	L26	L32	0.0

Primary

Player	R01	R02	R03	R04	R05	Score
1 Sturgeon Christie	W18	W15	W05	W02	W07	5.0
2 Miles Melvin	W12	W24	W10	L01	W11	4.0
3 Ovik Banerjee	L16	W17	W24	W14	W09	4.0
4 Uche A Afrika	W19	W16	L09	W12	D05	3.5
5 Andrew Chandler	W11	W14	L01	W09	D04	3.5
6 Cameron Mortazavi	L09	W23	D08	W20	W16	3.5
7 Mickey K Lonsdale	W17	L09	W19	W10	L01	3.0
8 Brandon Campbell	W26	L10	D06	D18	W19	3.0
9 Sarah Boyd	W06	W07	W04	L05	L03	3.0
10 Will Battle	W22	W08	L02	L07	W18	3.0
11 Evan Bryan	L05	W26	W21	W16	L02	3.0
12 Bryan BcMeen	L02	W13	W15	L04	W17	3.0
13 Robert Fetcher	B	L12	L16	D22	W20	2.5
14 Phillip L Causey	W21	L05	D18	L03	W23	2.5
15 Montgomery Brown	W25	L01	L12	D23	W24	2.5
16 Philip Ducharme	W03	L04	W13	L11	L06	2.0
17 Kati Chapman	L07	L03	W25	W24	L12	2.0
18 Marc Ducharme	L01	W22	D14	D08	L10	2.0
19 Jonathan Adams	L04	W25	L07	W21	L08	2.0
20 Libby Musgrave	H	L21	W26	L06	L13	1.5
21 Thomas Shattuck	L14	W20	L11	L19	D25	1.5
22 A J White	L10	L18	L23	D13	W26	1.5
23 Alex Chaney	L24	L06	W22	D15	L14	1.5
24 Clint Culpepper	W23	L02	L03	L17	L15	1.0
25 Monshieka Hampton	L15	L19	L17	D26	D21	1.0
26 Stephen Johanson	L08	L11	L20	D25	L22	0.5

(downloaded from the ACF Webpage)



5th Annual Alabama Junior Team Chess Tournament



LOCATION: South Shades Crest Elementary School
3770 South Shades Crest Road
Hoover, Alabama 35244

DIRECTIONS: Exit 10 on I-459 (one exit West of the Galleria). Travel West on 150 toward Bessemer. At the first traffic light after the exit, turn left on to South Shades Crest Road. Cross the expressway, go down the hill and turn right into "Willow Lake Estates". An almost immediate left turn heads you into the SSC parking lot.

DATE: 12 September 1998

DETAILS: 4 Player Teams. 5 Round Swiss. USCF Rated.

TIME CONTROL: Game in 30 minutes

ROUNDS: 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:15, 3:30

REGISTRATION: For early registration, send entry form and fees to: Kenneth Sloan

or register at site 8:30-9:30

MANDATORY players' meeting: 10:00.

Make checks payable to: Kenneth Sloan

ENTRY FEE: \$50/team if Postmarked by 5 September. \$80/team at site.

MEMBERSHIP: All participants must be USCF
(scholastic: under 14 \$12, else \$17; adult \$40)
and ACF (\$5) members.

Memberships available on site. (other states OK)

PRIZES: Plaques to all 4 players, top 2 teams in each of
two categories: Open (18 & Under) and Reserve (12 & Under)
Separate sections ONLY if at least 10 teams in each
category - otherwise one section (but all prizes!)

CONCESSIONS: Breakfast, lunch and snacks. Chess Books/Equipment.
Teams consist of exactly 4 players (no alternates). Teams with fewer than
4 players are acceptable, but strongly discouraged. It may be possible to form
teams (or add a player) during registration. All players must be 18 or younger.
To be eligible for the Reserve prizes, all 4 players must be 12 or younger.
All teams are eligible for the Open prizes. There are NO other restrictions
(such as school or club memberships) - teams are completely free-form.

=====Please Fill in COMPLETELY=====

Team Name: _____ Coach: _____

NAME _____ USCF ID _____ Exp Date _____

ADDRESS _____ Birthdate _____

NAME _____ USCF ID _____ Exp Date _____

ADDRESS _____ Birthdate _____

NAME _____ USCF ID _____ Exp Date _____

ADDRESS _____ Birthdate _____

NAME _____ USCF ID _____ Exp Date _____

ADDRESS _____ Birthdate _____

Friday the 13th Bughouse Mania

The Organizers of the 1998 Alabama Scholastic Chess K-12 Grade Championships Present

A Side Event!

"Friday the 13th Bughouse Mania"

Friday night, November 13, 1998

(in conjunction with the Alabama K-12 Scholastic Championships)

What? Why? A Friday night side event preliminary to the main tournament on Saturday. Bughouse: A rip-roaring chess variation using two player teams. Good for local players as well as those coming in from out of town the night before. If you're not familiar with bughouse, grab a buddy and come on anyway, you can learn it in one minute. but the fun just won't quit!!

Location: AmeriSuites Hotel, 2980 Hwy 150, Hoover, AL, (205) 988-8444. For accomodation info, see flyer for K-12 Grade Championships.

Directions: Take U.S. 31 exit from I-459, 1 mile west of I-65. Turn left (south) onto U.S. Hwy 31. Turn right on Ala Hwy 150, immediately past Riverchase Galleria. AmeriSuites is 8/10 mile on left.

Format: Game in 5 minutes Bughouse tournament. Unrated, 4 Round Swiss. One section, open to scholastic players only.

Registration: On-site, 6:30 - 6:45 PM. Forfeit round if late for registration. Round 1 begins at 7:00 PM, others ASAP. Awards before 9:00 PM.

Form your own team of two or come early and find a partner! Call for details.

Entry Fee: \$12 per 2-player team. Bring your tournament sets, boards, and clocks (no time delay). No memberships required. No muss, no fuss, just fast and furious chess.

Prizes: Individual trophies to both team members for team finish in top three places. Additional trophies for best team finish Under 1013, Under 813, Under 613. Pairings and prize eligibility based on team's average regular rating in latest USCF rating book. Unrated partners do not effect average team rating. Double unrated team eligible for place prizes only. We spread out the prizes so as not to favor only the best players-so Y'ALL COME!

Questions? Call Warner Chandler, [REDACTED]

Kenneth Sloan

1998 Alabama Scholastic Chess K-12 Grade Championships

Date: November 14, 1998
Location: Hunter Street Baptist Church, 2600 Highway 150, Hoover, AL 35226
Directions: Take Hoover Metropolitan Stadium exit (Exit 10) from I-459 South (about 4 miles West of I-65.) Turn east at bottom of exit ramp onto AL Hwy 150, toward Riverchase Galleria. Proceed 1/2 mile. Church is on the right. Follow signs to tournament.
Format: Individual, USCF Rated, 4 Round Swiss. Rounds 1 & 2 - G/30
Rounds 3 & 4 - G/45. CHECK-IN ONLY on-site 8:00 - 8:30.
Mandatory Players' meeting at 9:00 a.m. 1/2 pt byes available for all rounds except final. Call for details.
Rounds: 9:15, 10:45, 12:15, 2:15. Awards ceremony at 4:30 PM.
Entry Fee: \$15 per player if received by 11/10/98. Early Bird Discount! Entry fee is only \$12 if received by 10/17/98.
Entries received from 11/11 - 11/13 are \$25 per player.
NO ON-SITE REGISTRATION will be accepted.
Membership: All participants must be USCF (\$12 Students/\$17 Youth) and ACF (\$5) members. We will be happy to process your new memberships and/or renewals with advance registration. Open to Alabama Residents and those attending a resident school within the State of Alabama. Home-Schooled welcome!
Sections: One section for each grade: K,1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12. Sections may be merged, based on registrations. Home-schooled placed in section based on grade level work being performed on September 1, 1998.
Prizes: Top finisher in each grade is awarded the title "Alabama State Grade Chess Champion" for their respective grade. Trophies to top 4 in each grade with a minimum of 10 participants, top 3 in each grade with a minimum of 7 participants, top 2 in each grade guaranteed. Secondary trophies awarded to those not winning a place trophy for their grade: Best Under 1000, Best Under 900, Best Under 800, Best Under 700, and Best Unrated
Concessions: Snacks, lunch, drinks. Chess books and equipment. Game Room and basketball Gym available. Souvenir Tournament T-shirts (Multi-color graphic on colored cotton-blend t-shirt) available for \$12.50 (\$10 if paid before 10/17/98. Specify Youth Med, Adult Small, Medium, Large, XL, XXL. See entry form below.)
Registration: For registration, send entry form and fees to:
Tom Young

Make checks payable to: Tom Young. Check and completed entry form must be received by 11/13/98.

Questions?: Call Tom Young,

===== cut here and mail with payment =====
Note: All information is required. Form must be filled out completely.

Player's Name: _____ Entry Fee \$12 (by 10/17)
\$15 (by 11/10)
\$25 (by 11/13)

Address: _____
City: _____ ST: _____ Zip: _____
Age: _____ Birthdate: _____ Grade: _____
School Name: _____
Advance T-shirt order (\$10 if paid by 10/17) Specify size: _____

USCF ID: _____ Exp. Date: _____ USCF Membership (\$12/\$17 Youth)

ACF Member? Yes No Exp. Date: _____ ACF Membership Fee (\$5)

Parent Name: _____ Home Phone: _____

Total Enclosed _____

45th Alabama State Championship

10th Floor. Auburn University at Montgomery Library Tower

Cash prize total: \$2600 based on 70 regular entries

September 5 - 7, 1998

Open Section*

1st Prize	\$500
2nd Prize	250
1st Expert	180
2nd Expert	90
1st Class A	180
2nd Class A	90
1st under 1800	180
2nd under 1800	90

* open to all

Reserve Section*

1st prize	\$350
2nd prize	180
1st Class D	130
2nd Class D	65
1st Class E	130
2nd Class E	65
1st under 1000 and unr.	80
2nd under 1000 and unr.	40

* open to < 1600 and unrated

Entry fees:

Regular EF: \$45 by 8/24 to address below; \$50 at site.
Scholastic EF (for K-12 participants who want to play for trophy prizes only): \$10 by 8/24 to address below; \$15 at site.

Early entries:

Mail to TD Rich Bellezza

On-site entries:

Time control:

Round times:

Make check payable to Montgomery Chess Club;
include USCF ID# and section in which you wish to play.
10:30 - 11:30 A.M. Saturday, September 5.

30 moves in 90 minutes; then sudden death in one hour.

Saturday, 12:00 and 5:30; Sunday, 8:30, 2:00, 7:30; Monday,
immediately following ACF Business Meeting and election of
officers (about 9:30 A.M.).

Required:

In both sections, participants must be USCF and ACF members
(other states OK).

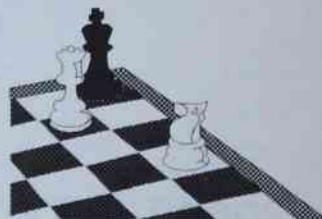
Directions:

Take exit #9 from I-85 in east Montgomery.

A Heart of Dixie Event; a Heritage Event; 6 Grand Prix Points

Internet Chess Training with Senior Master / Fide Master Stephen Muhammad

- **Game Analysis**
- **1 on 1 play**
- **... and More !**



First Sunday Quads

- When:** The First Sunday of (almost) every month (please check the ACF Calendar)
- Where:** Hill University Center on the UAB campus (corner of University Ave and 14th Street South)
- What:** Low-cost USCF rated Quads, G/45. **Entry fee: \$2.00.** Some sections may be Hex, or G/30
- Times:** **Registration, 1:00-1:30; Rounds, 1:45, 3:15, 4:45**
- Prizes:** Clear winner in each section receives free entry to the next event.

All ages and all playing levels welcome. USCF Membership Required (available on site). This is a popular low-stress format. Come and enjoy the chess! No big \$\$, no big trophies - just chess. Please bring sets, boards and clocks. Round times are nominal - we'll play each round ASAP (RR format means no delay for pairings). Questions? - contact Kenneth Sloan

Other events: The Birmingham Chess Club also meets at the Hill University Center, usually room 411, most Tuesday and Friday evenings from 6:30 to 10:00.

Heart of Dixie Standings as of June 17 by Jack Mallory

Funds		Class B			
ACF	\$200.00	Partick Alford	6.0	Riley E. Lane	11.0
Magic City Open	12.00	James Bowen	28.0	Roy Martin	15.5
Magic City QC	8.00	Jack Gwin	41.0	Robert M. Rieves	41.0
Mont. G/29, Jan.	6.00	David Hayes	15.5	Adrian Varon	7.0
Queen of Hearts	25.00	Walt Higginbotham	58.0	Fred E. Wood	12.5
Mont. G/29, March	6.00	Patrick Kee	13.5	Donald E. Yessick	44.5
Birmingham, March	7.00	Xavier Martine	23.0	Class E / Unrated	
Mont. G/29, May	6.00	Richard Pugh	6.0	Phillip L. Causey	6.0
Al. G/10 Ch., B'ham	10.00	James Richardson	14.0	Andrew Chandler	7.0
Vulcan Open	32.00	Walter Schaetzle	7.5	Nathanael Chandler	7.0
Mont. G/29, June	3.00	Ross Owen Smith	7.0	Warner Chandler	8.0
Total	\$315.00	Roy F. Stanton	7.5	Ari Friedman	14.5
Master/Expert		Michael deVivo	7.0	Michael Friedman	11.5
Ulric Aeria	15.5	Gerald A. Wheeler	20.0	Jim O'Neal Griffin	6.5
Richard Frye	8.5	Class C		Andy Grundhoefer	10.5
A.J. Goldsby	8.0	Mohamed Abdel-Ghany	14.0	Tariq Hashim	5.5
Bill Melvin	40.5	Ralph Holloway	6.0	Charles D. Hayes	15.5
Robert Pruitt	24.0	John E. Caldwell	22.0	William Ross Hodges	6.5
Andy Reeder	16.0	Lamar Causey	15.0	Matt Johnson	12.0
Kyle Therrell	9.0	William E. Coleman	8.5	Kendra King	13.5
Andrew Whatley	50.0	Richard W. Ellis	53.5	Ken Kirby	7.5
Class A		James C. Dean	6.5	Littertory McCall	5.0
Constantine Ananiadis	7.0	Joseph Marcum	14.0	Christopher Newbolt	7.0
Tim Bond	45.5	Scott Miller	7.5	Philip Norton	17.0
Willie Calhoun	15.0	John T. O'Connor	14.0	Andrew J. Rozsa	7.0
Ray Downs	21.5	Christopher L. Oliver	10.0	Tren Sims	9.5
Ranil Guneratne	7.5	David Sloan	37.5	Johnathan Spanos	6.0
Caesar Lawrence	65.5	Joe R. Solomon	8.5	Jason W. Vest	7.0
Tim Lawry	7.5	Allen G. Woodard	8.0	Greg Wilder	6.0
John Marcos	14.0	Class D		Josh S. Wood	7.0
Rhodes Peele	23.5	Keith Artman	8.0	Derek S. Woodham	7.0
John Perciballi	7.0	Scott Bitterman	8.0	Brennan G. Young	15.0
Kirk Petty	8.0	James F. Brown	6.0	Thomas H. Young	7.0
Jere Roland	12.5	Taylor A. Curtis	15.5		
Kenneth Sloan	23.5	Dale F. Dickens	7.0		
Alan Todd	28.5	Charles D. Hays	11.0		
		Nathaniel Hutchinson	7.0		

A Letter from Stuart Rachels

Dear Alabama Chess Antics,

My heartfelt thanks go to Kyle Therrell, Lamar Daniel, Andrew Whatley and my dad for their articles in the May - July issue of the Antics. The picture of me and Lamar on the cover brings back those days of walking atop the tables in the Education Building at UAB, eating fast food on 7th avenue between rounds, looking at everyone's games on Saturday night before going to bed, getting stomach aches from the stress of playing, and generally feeling like the center of attention. Looking back it must've gone to my head, but I can't find it in me to mind, given how much pleasure it all was. My buddies in those days, from 1979 to 1984, included Kyle, Lamar, Mark Walton, Steve Hudson, Dennis Smith, David Johnson, Ellis Jones, Ben Sides, Ronnie Priest, Jack Gwin, Alan Todd, Robert Pruitt and a bunch of other folks I smile to think about. Recently, here in Syracuse, New York, a friend and I were playing blitz on a Friday night in a crowded downtown restaurant. The Rolling Stones were in town, and a guy approached us who was working with the band (though he'd never met Mick Jagger). When I told him I was from Alabama, he said he used to room in New Orleans with a chessplayer from Alabama. As he struggled to recall the name, I said, "Brent Inman?" It's a small world.

My early days of playing chess were the most fun for me because I was always improving. I remember thinking at the time that I had hit a wall around 2385; my lack of progress frustrated me. It seemed like five years. Recently I looked back and discovered that I was in the high 2300's for just nine months.

Although I haven't

played tournament chess in several years, I continue to enjoy the game. I have a local sparring partner, a British master named John Hawthorne, while sometimes grandmaster friends come through town like Alex Sherzer, who always has an unsound opening novelty to bounce off me. I tried to help Kasparov's last two match opponents, but in fact the move in the Dragon I suggested to Anand lost by force! (He never played it.) These things wouldn't happen if I owned a good chess program. Basically, however, I've resigned myself being a footnote in American chess history (like Jim Tarjan, who won one U.S. Championship before retiring), preferring the family business of philosophy. I'll have my Ph.D. in a month and will teach next year at the University of Colorado in Boulder.

Kyle tells me that Daniel Thomas just became a master - which makes four masters under the age of 16 in Alabama. Fantastic! As is the custom for fossilized has-beens like myself, I'll pass on some advice to the new generation.

1. The best way to improve is to analyze your games for several hours and then go over your analysis with a stronger player. Don't get your ego involved. Your games are mistake-ridden - perfection is not an issue. (I was impressed to see Bill Melvin annotating his losses.) Only patzers analyze quickly and don't admit their own mistakes. One thing all the good players have in common is objectivity about their own games. The slowest analyst I've ever seen is Boris Spassky.

2. Too many scholastic tournaments and action tournaments are bad for your game. You don't need to quit playing in them, but make sure you play in lots of regular tournaments. Nothing is wrong with speed chess or

bughouse though, which are sufficiently different from real play that they don't affect your habits in serious games.

3. Study the endgame. "Americans are terrible endgame players", Boris Kogan used to tell me. He would win every equal endgame from 2200's. Endgame understanding, unlike opening knowledge, doesn't get outdated.

4. Play mainline openings. There's a reason why world-class players don't play irregular openings. If you don't start playing mainlines now, one day you'll be playing grandmasters, and it'll be harder then to play catch-up. (I wrongly ignored this advice from Allen Kaufman in the early 1980's who was then head of Chess-in-the-Schools.)

5. Listen to Kyle Therrell until you hit 2400.

6. Chess is something people do for themselves; it's not something that benefits the world. (Mikhail Tal delighted millions with his spectacular imagination - but all most of us ever do is irritate our opponents.) Only play if you enjoy it. If you enjoy playing in scholastic tournaments more than you enjoy improving, then ignore my second piece of advice. And don't let adults make you feel guilty for not studying. When I was 14, Edmar Mednis asked me very purposefully how much I studied chess. I said two hours a day, when the truth was more like two hours a week, and never using a board (just looking at diagrams). Then Edmar made me feel guilty for not being a hard enough worker. I don't share his values.

Well, I've rambled on long enough. Thank you, Rhodes, and continue your good work for Alabama chess.

With best wishes,

Stuart Rachels

ACF Calendar *maintained by Dr. Ken Sloan*

This table of chess events is mostly taken from the webpage that you **might** want to play in! Organizers, please call or E-mail Dr. Sloan so that your tournament(s) can be listed. On very rare occasions, tournaments have to be cancelled or rescheduled after they have been announced in the *Antics*. For this reason, it is sometimes a good idea to communicate with the organizer or contact person before driving to an out-of-town event

Event	Date and City More information on	Contact Person, phone and/or E-mail address
Back 2 School Blues Scholastic	Birmingham; August 22	Dale Robbins
45 th Alabama State Championship	Montgomery, September 5 - 7; p. 27	Rhodes Peele
First Sunday Quads	Birmingham, September 6, page 28	Kenneth Sloan
5th Annual Alabama Junior Team	Hoover, September 12, p. 24	Kenneth Sloan
Deadline for submitting material to <i>Alabama Chess Antics</i>	September 25	Rhodes Peele
First Sunday Quads	Birmingham, October 4, p.28	Kenneth Sloan
Friday the 13th Bughouse Mania	Birmingham, November 13, p. 25	Warner Chandler
Alabama Scholastic K-12 Champ'ships	Birmingham, November 14, p. 26	Tom Young
Hoover Scholastic	January 30, Hoover	Vasha Rosenblum

Maintaining the ACF Membership Roster ...

Look at the mailing address on this issue of *Alabama Chess Antics*. The first line contains (i) your membership type (REG = Regular, SCH = Scholastic, LIF = Life, AFFL = Affiliate); your ACF expiration date; (iii) your ACF membership, which in most cases is identical to your USCF membership number.

It is **up to you** to renew your membership

before or when it expires and to bring problems to the **Secretary/Treasurer's** attention if you or someone you know isn't getting the *Antics*. His mailing address and phone number appear page 2.

Delivery dates of the same issue to different members may vary by as much as ten days due to the nature of bulk mail delivery.

The **Alabama Chess Federation (ACF)** is the United States Chess Federation (USCF) affiliate for the state of Alabama. Membership is open to any interested individual or organization by paying the annual membership dues. Please support Alabama chess by **joining** or **renewing** your annual membership in ACF. Benefits of membership include a subscription to the quarterly publication *Alabama Chess Antics*.

ACF Membership Application

☐ Regular, \$10

☐ Scholastic (under 19), \$5

☐ Affiliate, \$15

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

USCF ID# (if applicable) _____

Phone and/or E-mail address _____



Mail this coupon or a photocopy along with payment to _____

Alabama Chess Antics

c/o Jeff Lake

Publisher, Alabama Chess Antics

Inside This Issue

- Milan Momic's "Best Game" annotated by Bill Melvin
- A letter from Stuart Rachels
- Scholastic tournament reports, crosstables, tournament announcements, games
- Section on algebraic chess notation for kids and parents
- Articles "How to Beat a Bad Bishop" and "The Next to the Last Mistake"
- Lots more !